

ASPEN
Vol. 1
COLLECTED



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

David
WOHL

Eduardo
FRANCISCO

John
STARR



Vol. 1

#0

COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IRIS



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸢尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE ZERO]

David Wohl &
Brad Foxhoven_story
David Wohl_script

illustrations_Eduardo Francisco, Jason Gorder
colors_Peter Steigerwald
letters_Josh Reed



created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Digital Editors: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ Design and Production: JOSH REED, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 1 Issue 0

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SOCHI, RUSSIA.



THIS IS THE HOME OF NIKOLAI KRILOV.

<GOOD NIGHT SOPHIA, MY LITTLE ANGEL.>*

TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

ONCE A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HE PARLAYED HIS CONNECTIONS INTO AN EXECUTIVE POSITION AT GAZPROM, THE LARGEST PROVIDER OF NATURAL GAS IN RUSSIA.


<GOOD NIGHT, PAPA.>

LOVING FATHER.

DEVOTED HUSBAND.


ZZZKX

TARGET.



MY EMPLOYER BELIEVES
THAT IN BUSINESS, ALL
DEALS MUST BE BASED
ON TRUST.

AND WHEN
THAT TRUST IS
BROKEN...



...A PRICE
MUST BE PAID.

TWO DAYS AGO.
SHANGHAI, CHINA.

YOU HAVE
MADE A VERY
GENEROUS OFFER,
MY FRIEND...
...BUT
UNFORTUNATELY
I MUST DECLINE.

IT'S NOTHING
PERSONAL, I ASSURE
YOU. STRICTLY
BUSINESS.

THE TRUTH
OF THE MATTER
IS, WHILE YOUR DEAL
WAS QUITE LUCRATIVE,
OTHER INTERESTS
HAVE BEEN QUITE...
PERSUASIVE.

IT'S TIMING,
REALLY. NATURAL
GAS PRICES HAVE RISEN
SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE OUR
DEAL WAS AGREED UPON,
AND I RECENTLY RECEIVED
AN OFFER THAT I SIMPLY
COULDN'T REFUSE.

I SEE.

GIRLS,
TEA. >>

>>TRANSLATED
FROM CHINESE
MANDARIN.<<

I'M SURE YOU
UNDERSTAND,
MR. CHING.



MR. KRIOV,
I HOPE THERE IS
SOMETHING WE CAN
DO TO CHANGE
YOUR MIND.

MY COMPANY HAS
SPENT A CONSIDER-
ABLE AMOUNT OF TIME
AND RESOURCES ON THIS
ARRANGEMENT. IT WOULD
BE A SHAME TO LOSE
IT NOW.



HMM.
MAYBE I COULD
BE PERSUADED
TO RECONSIDER.
GIVEN THE RIGHT...
MOTIVATION.



OF
COURSE.



WELL, THEN. NOW
THAT I SEE WHERE YOUR
INTERESTS LIE, PLEASE
ALLOW ME TO SUBMIT A
NEW PROPOSAL...



...ONE THAT
BETITS OUR CURRENT
RELATIONSHIP...

"...WITH THE PROPER
INCENTIVES."

THREE MEN IN THE
GUARDHOUSE, ONE
PATROLLING THE
PERIMETER.

PERHAPS KRILOV
WAS EXPECTING SOME
COMPANY...

BOKK

<HNH??>*

<MIKHAIL--
HANG UP THE
GODDAMMED PHONE
AND TAKE A LOOK
OUTSIDE.>

<ASSHOLE.>

*TRANSLATED
FROM RUSSIAN.*





«DAMMIT, ALEX!»

«WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?!»

NOUULLIGHT*

THUK

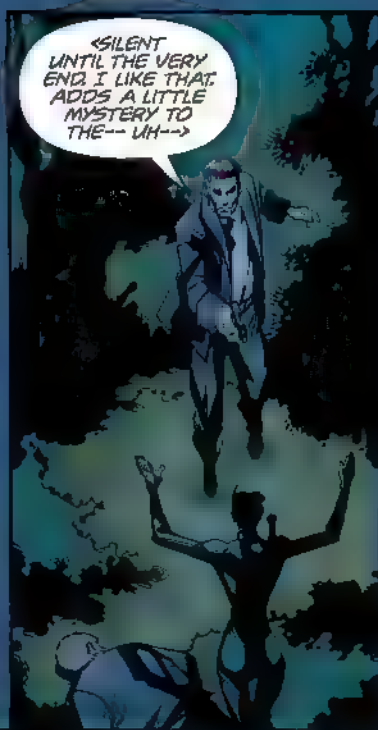
«TCH TCH.
FORGOT TO CHECK
FOR ANYONE ELSE BEFORE
REVEALING YOUR POSITION.
SUCH AN AMATEURISH
MISTAKE.»



<WHO ARE YOU? GUDANBU?? KRILOV TOLD ME THAT CHING HAD CONNECTIONS THERE.>

#CHINESE SECRET SERVICE.

<NO MATTER, JUST TELL ME IF I CAN EXPECT ANY MORE VISITORS TONIGHT AND PERHAPS WE CAN WORK OUT SOME SORT OF... ARRANGEMENT....>



<SILENT UNTIL THE VERY END, I LIKE THAT. ADDS A LITTLE MYSTERY TO THE-- UH-->



<--YOU-- YOU'RE THE-->



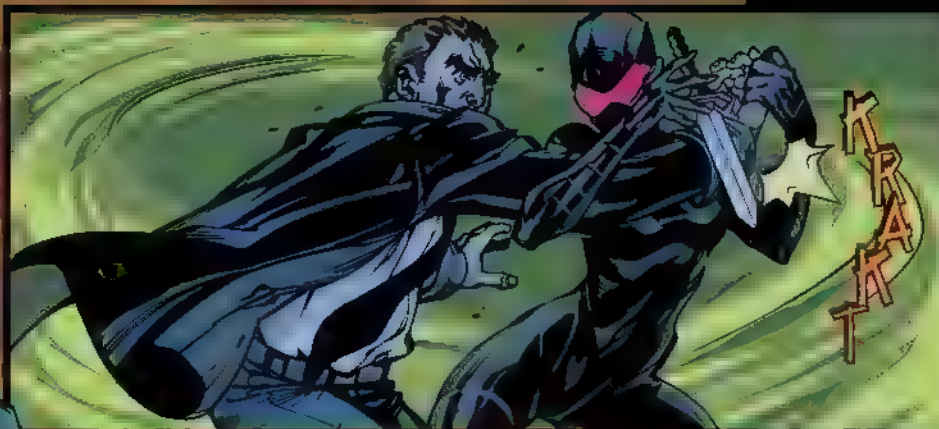
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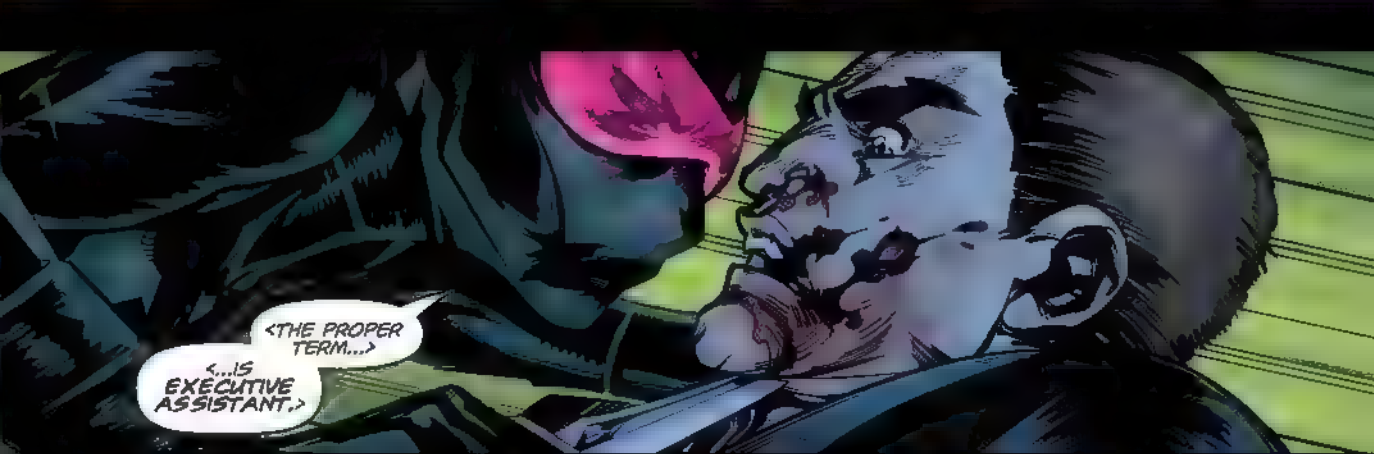


«WELL, WELL,
YOU CERTAINLY
ARE TALENTED.»

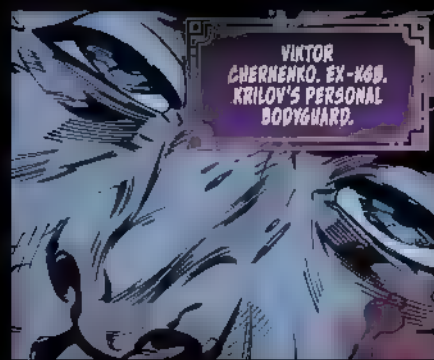


«IS IT...
NNNGGHHH... TRUE
WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT
YOU PEOPLE? THAT YOU'RE
NOT... JUST HIS SECRETARY...
AND BODYGUARD...
BUT HIS WHORE
AS WELL?»

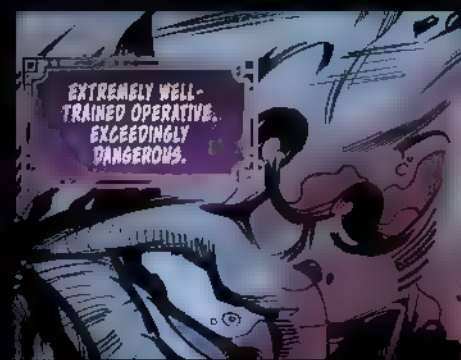




<THE PROPER TERM...>
<...IS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.>



VIKTOR
CHERNENKO. EX-KGB.
KRILOV'S PERSONAL
BODYGUARD.

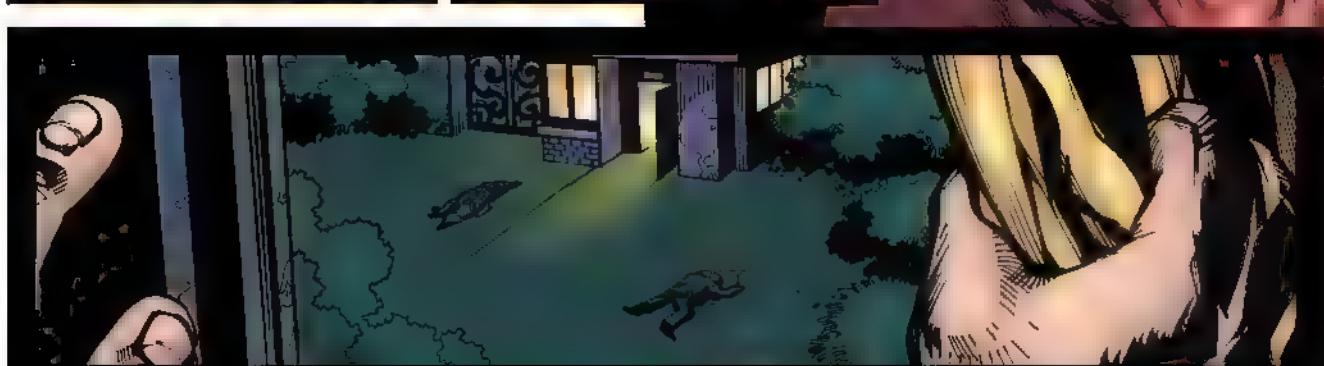
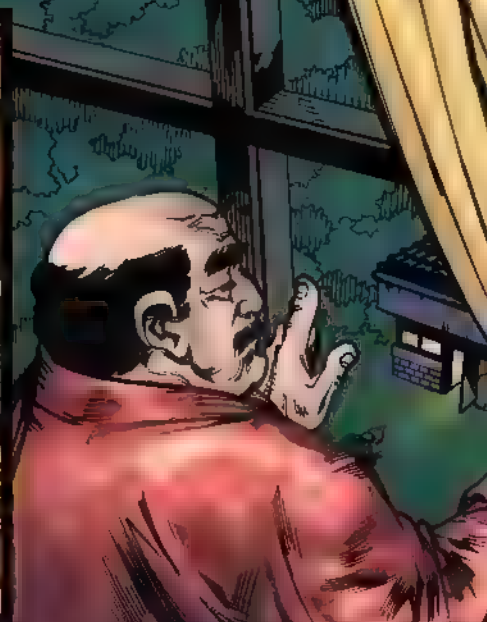
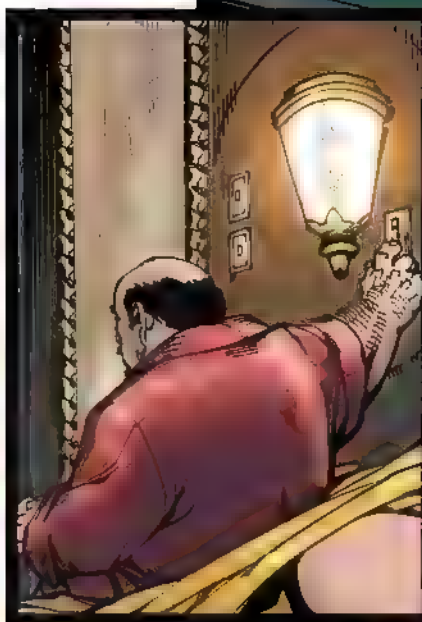


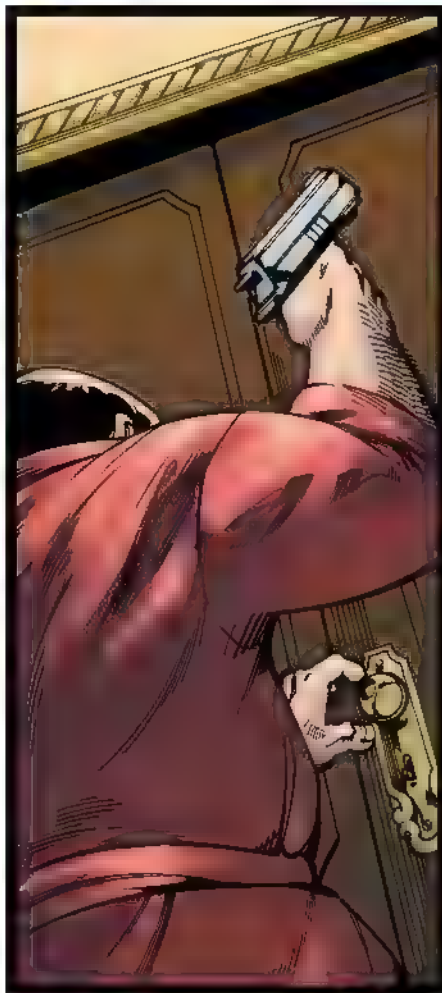
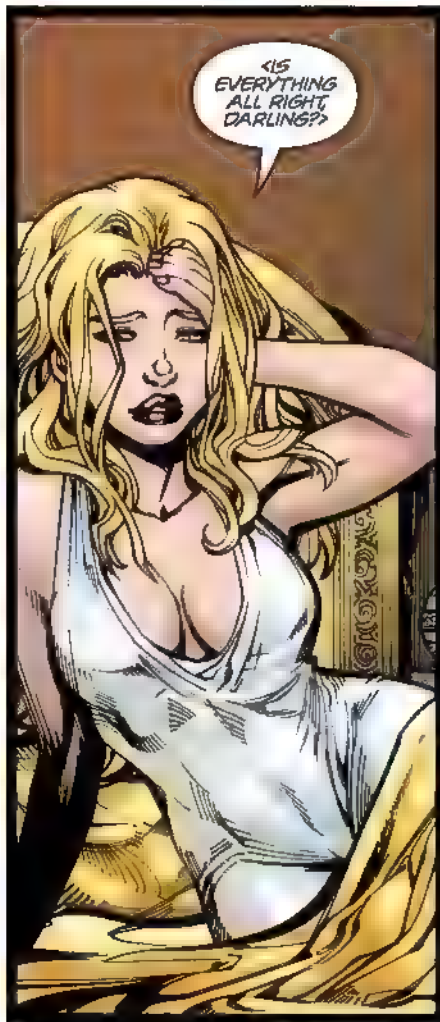
EXTREMELY WELL-
TRAINED OPERATIVE.
EXCEEDINGLY
DANGEROUS.



TENDENCY TOWARD
OVERCONFIDENCE CAN
BE DISADVANTAGEOUS
FOR HIM.

WUMP







<NO!!!>



<MMNNHHH...
PAPA? WHAT
IS IT??>

<SOPHIA!
YOU'RE
ALIVE!>

<OF COURSE
I AM, PAPA.
WHY WOULDN'T
I BE? WHAT'S
WRONG?>

<SHHHH...
IT'S ALL RIGHT,
MY ANGEL...>

<EVERYTHING IS
ALL RIGHT...>

THIS IS THE HOME
OF NIKOLAI KRILOV.

ONCE A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL
IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HE
THRIVED IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE
DISCIPLINE IS ACHIEVED ONLY
THROUGH DISPLAYS OF FORCE.

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES,
MY EMPLOYER WILL RECEIVE
WORD THAT I'M CONTRACT
HAS BEEN SIGNED.

THE DEAL WILL PROCEED
AS PLANNED.

DISCIPLINE HAS
BEEN RESTORED.

MY NAME IS IRIS.

I'M AN
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

iris #1



Vol. 1

#1

OF 6
COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Kris





Vol. 1

#1

OF 6
COVER B

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris





Vol. 1

#1

OF 6
COVER C

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris



Executive Assistant: Iris

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KABUL, AFGHANISTAN.
WEDNESDAY.

SO, MISTER
CHING, I TRUST
YOU'RE ENJOYING
YOUR TIME IN OUR
FAIR COUNTRY?

THIS IS FRANCIS WU-HONG
CHING, PRESIDENT AND
CEO OF CHINGCORP.



THE TRUTH,
MISTER SAFIN?

OF COURSE,
MY FRIEND.

FRANKLY I FIND
YOUR CITY AND IT'S
PEOPLE QUITE
DISTASTEFUL.

AND I WORRY
THAT I WILL NEVER
GET THE STENCH OF
KABUL OFF OF MY CLOTHES.

«IRIS, TEA.»

ONE OF THE SECRETS OF MY EMPLOYER'S
SUCCESS IS THAT HE'S WILLING TO GO TO
PLACES THAT OTHERS WON'T DARE.

THAT FEARLESS PHILOSOPHY HAS
HELPED BUILD CHINGCORP INTO A NAUGHTY-
BILLION DOLLAR MULTI-NATIONAL
CORPORATION WITH OFFICES ON SIX
DIFFERENT CONTINENTS.

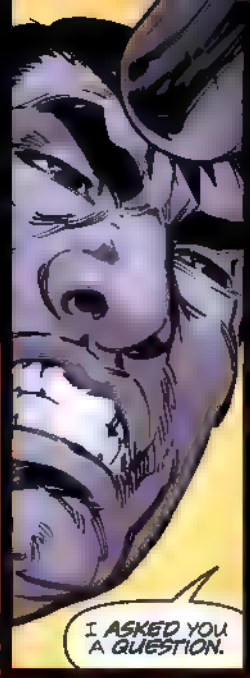


HAHAHA!
YOU'RE AN
ENTERTAINING
MAN, MISTER
CHING. I BELIEVE
I SHALL ENJOY
DOING
BUSINESS
WITH YOU.

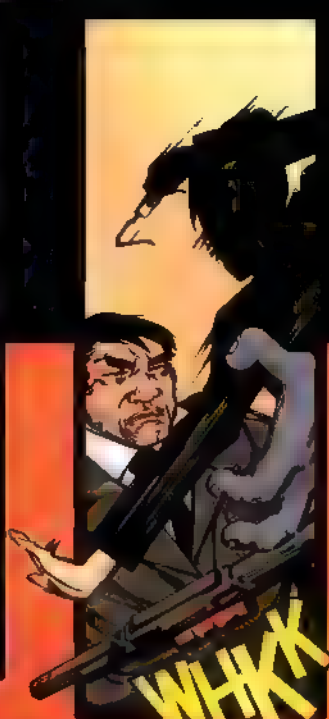
MY EMPLOYER.

«TRANSLATED
FROM CHINESE
MANDARIN.»





I ASKED YOU
A QUESTION.



MY PRIMARY TASK IS
TO ENSURE HIS SAFETY.





AND I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
FRIDAY MORNING.

AND LASTLY
AS YOU CAN SEE ON
YOUR CHARTS, OUR
LATEST TERRITORIAL
ACQUISITIONS IN CENTRAL
ASIA WILL ALLOW US
UNPRECEDENTED
ACCESS TO THOSE
REGIONS.

PERIODICALLY, MY EMPLOYER
MAKES HIS PRESENTATION TO
HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

OUR DEVELOPMENT TEAMS
ARE ALREADY EN ROUTE TO THE
REGION, BUT EVEN CONSERVATIVE
ESTIMATES ARE SHOWING OVER 4
BILLION CUBIC CENTIMETERS OF
NATURAL GAS DEPOSIT--

BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
RISK... SIR?

MISTER
CHU?

...I JUST FEEL THAT
THE GOVERNMENTS
OF AFGHANISTAN AND
PAKISTAN ARE... UH...
TOO UNSTABLE FOR US
TO COMMIT SO MANY
RESOURCES.

ALAN CHU, A SENIOR EXECUTIVE
FROM NEW YORK, OFTEN PAYS
TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO MY
EMPLOYER'S ACTIVITIES.

OTHERS PAY TOO
MUCH ATTENTION...

TO ME.

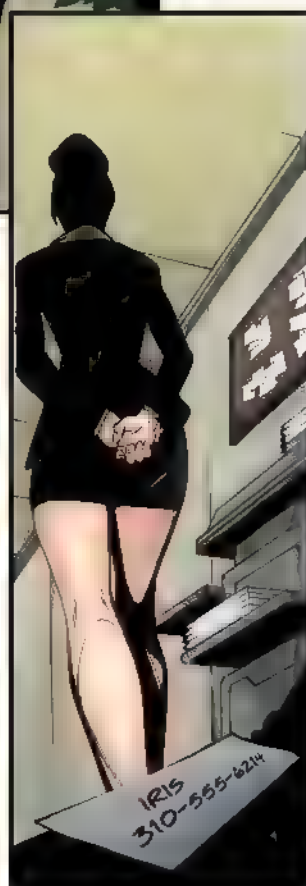
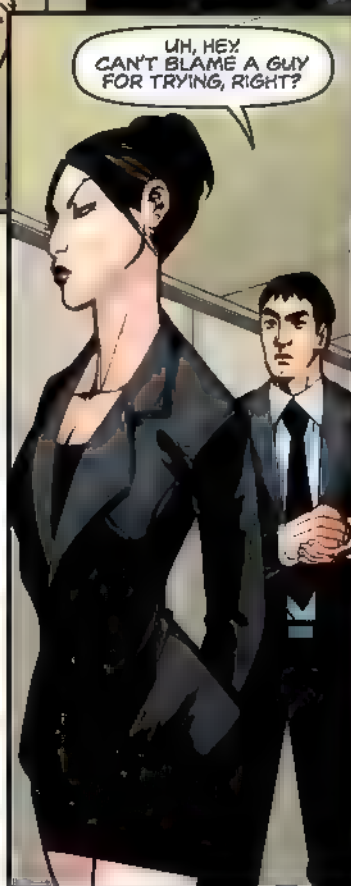
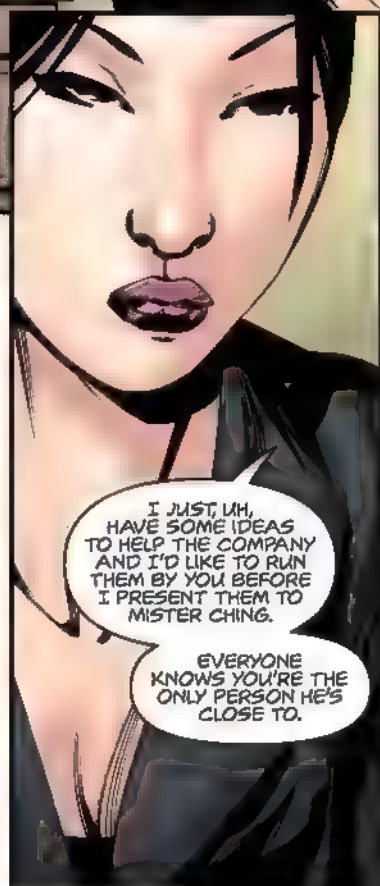
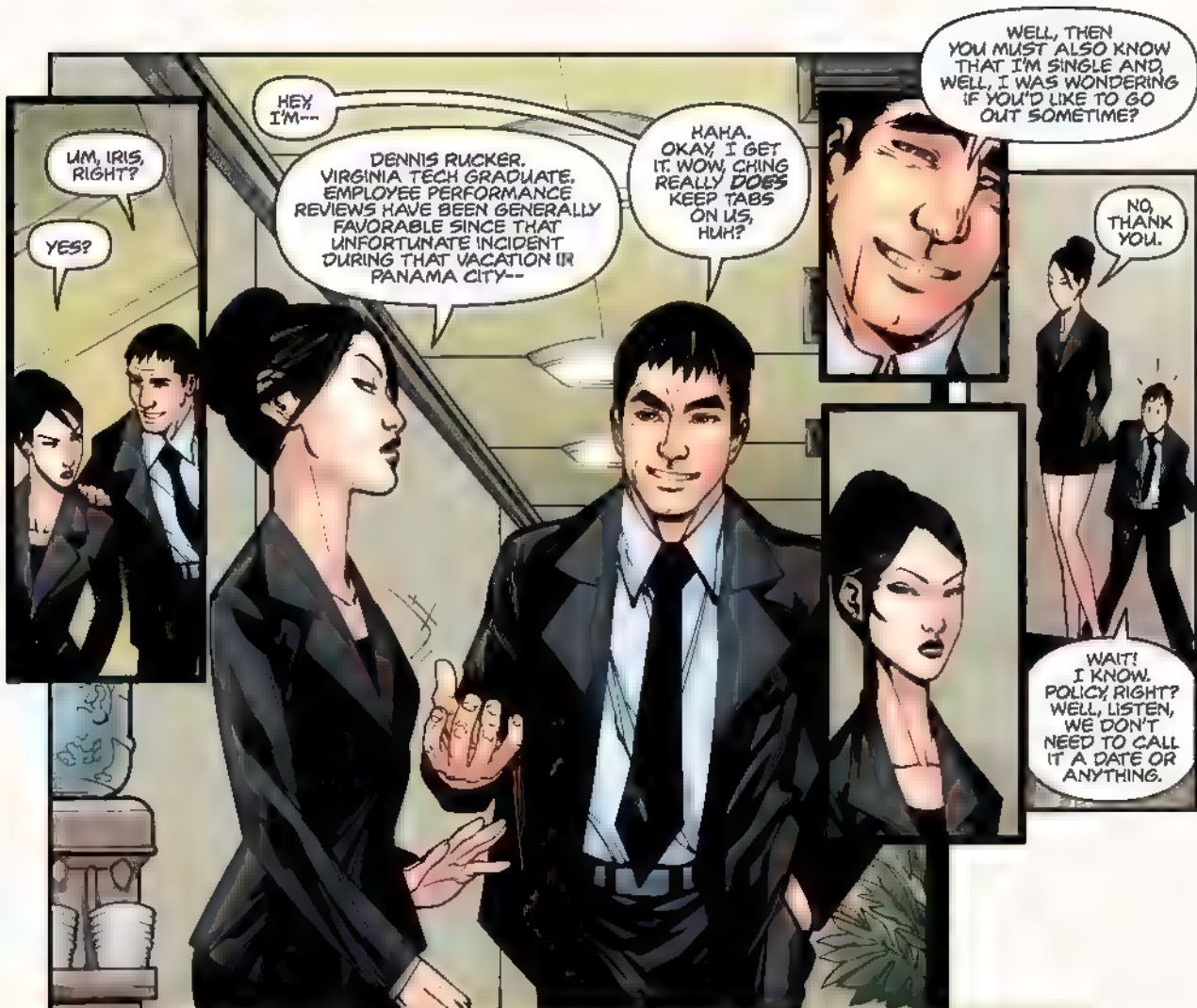
PERHAPS WE
SHOULD PUT SUCH
AN IMPORTANT
VENTURE TO A
BOARD VOTE,
UH... SIR.

I APPRECIATE
THE INPUT OF ANY
MEMBER OF THE
BOARD, MISTER
CHU.

LET US
TABLE YOUR
SUGGESTION
AND TAKE IT UP
MONDAY, ALL
RIGHT?

MEETING
ADJOURNED,
GENTLEMEN.

HEY!



WILSHIRE CORRIDOR.

THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MY
LIFE WAS THE DAY THAT MY EMPLOYER
CHOSE ME TO SERVE HIM.

THAT MOMENT, WHEN I WAS PLUCKED
FROM THE SQUALOR OF THE ACADEMY,
CHOSEN OVER ALL THE OTHER GIRLS
CLAMORING FOR HIS ATTENTION...
I'LL CHERISH THE MEMORY FOREVER.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I NEVER
COULD HAVE IMAGINED BEING
AMONGST SUCH LUXURY...
SUCH OPULENCE.

IT IS TRULY
A BLESSING.

I KNOW THAT
FOOL, RUCKER,
HAS BEEN PAYING
ATTENTION TO
YOU.

AND REGARDING
MISTER CHU,
HIS POSITION ON THE
BOARD HAS BECOME
UNTENABLE.

HE MAY BE
YOUNG, BUT HE HAS
CONNECTIONS. HUMOR HIM.
RESPOND TO HIM. I'M
CURIOUS WHERE HIS
ALLEGIANCES LIE.

HIS EMPLOYMENT
MUST BE
TERMINATED.

CENTURY CITY. SATURDAY.

ALAN CHU HAS BEEN WITH THE COMPANY FOR 11 YEARS.

MOMMY--
DADDY-- CATCH
MEEEEEEEEEE!

A GRADUATE OF THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS (WHERE HE MET HIS FUTURE WIFE),
CHU HAS BEEN A GREAT ASSET TO THE
COMPANY DURING ITS RECENT EXPANSION.

HIS CONNECTIONS TO
ASIAN DISCRETIONARY FUNDS
HAVE BEEN INDUPLICABLE.

SLOW DOWN,
LEELEE, WE'RE
INSIDE NOW.

WEE
EEEEEE
EE!

I'LL GET THE
ELEVATOR!

HAVE
A GOOD
EVENING,
SIR.

THANK YOU.
GOOD NIGHT!

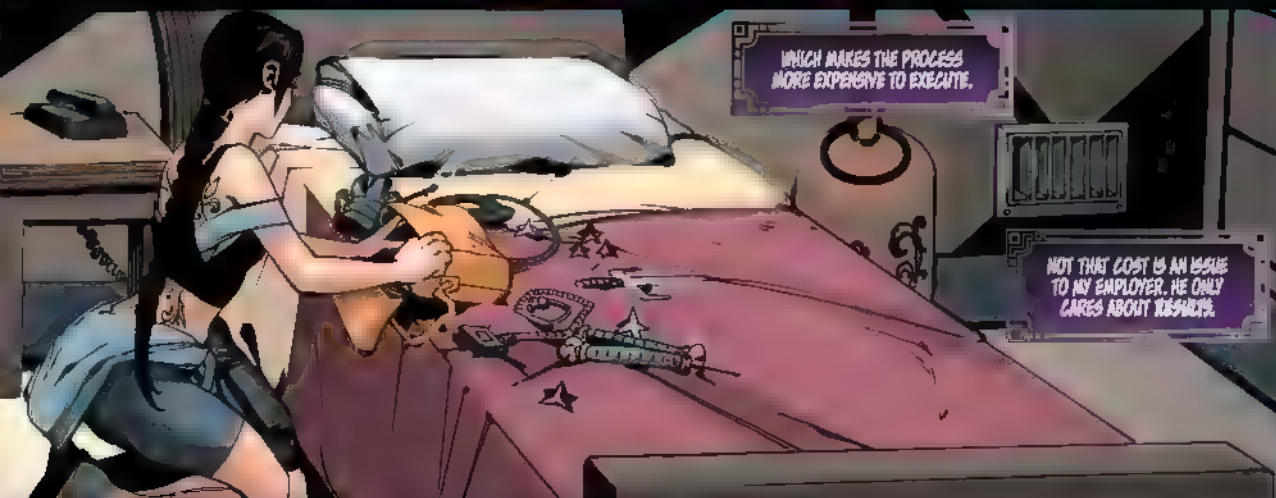
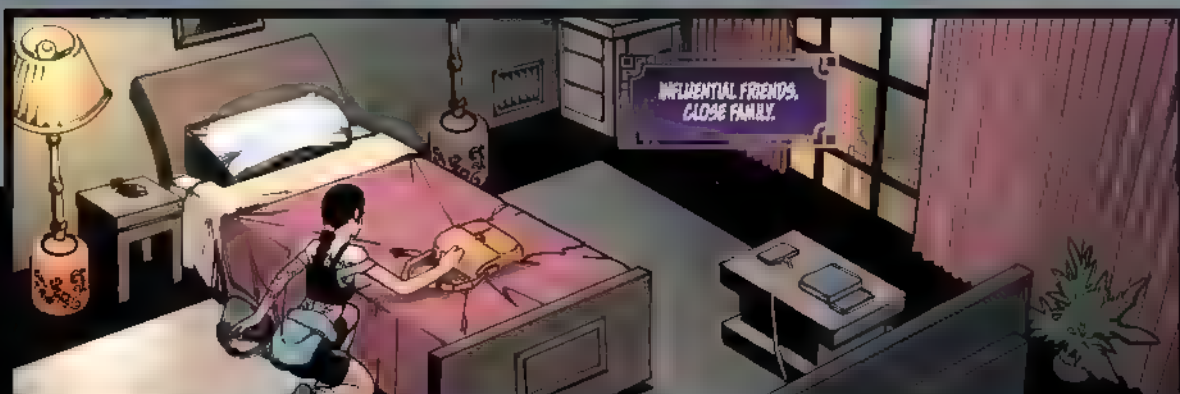
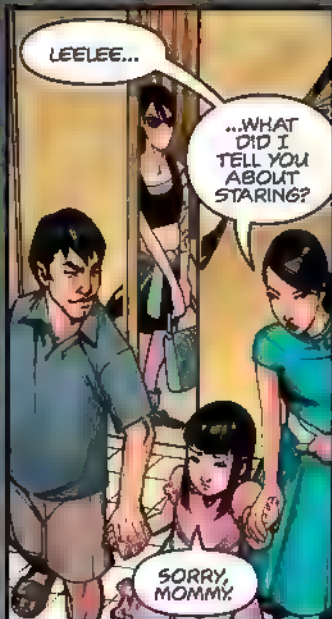
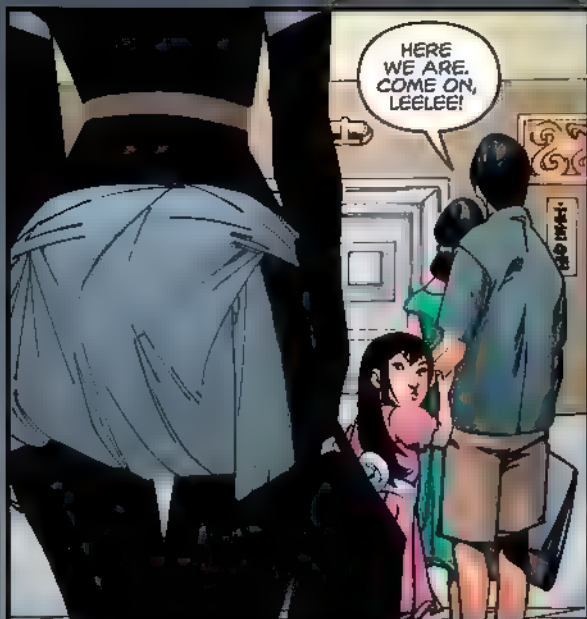
HOLD IT,
PLEASE!

PARDON ME.

LEELEE!

MOMMY SHE'S
PRETTY

26



5 HOURS, 30
MINUTES LATER.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, WITH
THE SOPHISTICATED NATURE OF
GENETIC TESTING AND ENHANCED
FORENSIC TECHNIQUES...

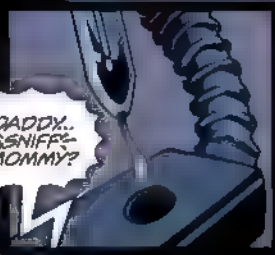


...IT'S MORE DIFFICULT
THAN EVER TO HIDE THE
TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH.

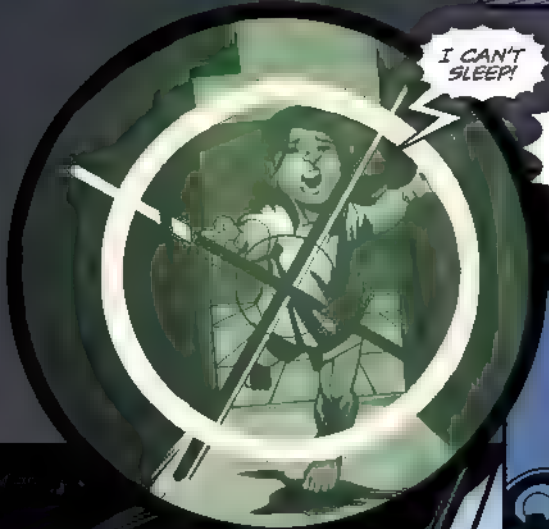


TECHNIQUES HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE INFAMOUS NINJA ISHKANN GOEMON USED A LONG PIECE OF THREAD AND POISON DERIVED FROM HORSE FECES IN AN ATTEMPT TO KILL DAINIO ODA NOBANAGA.

BUT THE EXPECTED RESULTS ARE STILL THE SAME.



DADDY...
-SNIFFS-
MOMMY?



I CAN'T
SLEEP!

AWWWW, COME HERE,
HONEY I KNOW ITS HARD
TO SLEEP IN A STRANGE
PLACE BUT NOTHING IS
GOING TO HURT YOU.

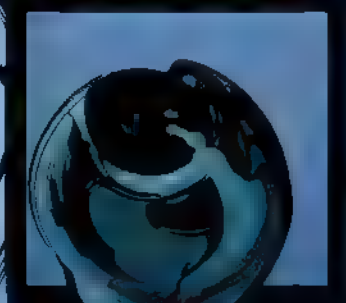
JUST REMEMBER
WE'RE RIGHT HERE, AND WE
LOVE YOU, AND TOMORROW
WE'RE GOING TO
DISNEYLAND!



GOOD NIGHT,
DADDY, GOOD
NIGHT, MOMMY.

GOOD NIGHT,
BABY, WE LOVE
YOU.





MALIBU, CALIFORNIA.
SUNDAY.

THANKS FOR
COMING OUT WITH ME,
IRIS. CRAZY NEWS
ABOUT CHU, HUH?

SO YOUNG FOR
A HEART ATTACK.
MUST'VE RUN IN
HIS FAMILY OR
SOMETHING.

ANYWAY, YOU
KNOW, THERE ARE A
COUPLE OF SPOTS IN L.A.
THAT REALLY MEAN A LOT TO
ME, AND WHEN I'M WITH
SOMEONE SPECIAL, I JUST
FEEL LIKE SHARING IT,
YOU KNOW?

AH, HERE
IT IS.

WHERE IS IT?
ALL I SEE IS THIS,
UM, MINIATURE
GOLF PLACE?

OH.

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
YOU, BUT WHERE
I COME FROM,
LOSER BUYS
DINNER.

I SEE...

breeep

TELL
HIM YOU'RE
BUSY!

THIS IS IRIS...
YES, SIR...
I'LL BE RIGHT
THERE, SIR.

PLEASE
TAKE ME BACK
NOW, MISTER
RUCKER.

SOON...

WHILE I MUST ADMIT HE WAS SOMEWHAT ENTERTAINING, MISTER RUCKER'S ANTICS WERE A BIT... IMMATURE.

UNLIKE MY EMPLOYER, A MAN OF EXQUISITE TASTE AND REFINEMENT WHO EXPECTS NOTHING LESS FROM ME.

A GENEROUS MAN, HE ENSURES THAT I'M CONSISTENTLY SUPPLIED WITH THE MOST LUXURIOUS FRAGRANCES AND LOTIONS...

...AND GOWNS THAT ARE HAND-WOVEN FROM RARE CHINESE SILK.



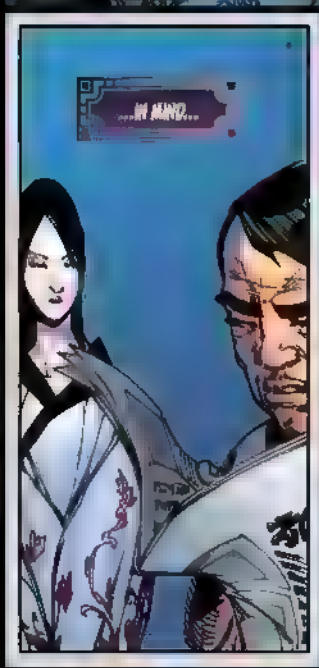
ALL THIS HE HAS
GIVEN TO ME...

...AND I IMMERSE
MYSELF IN IT...

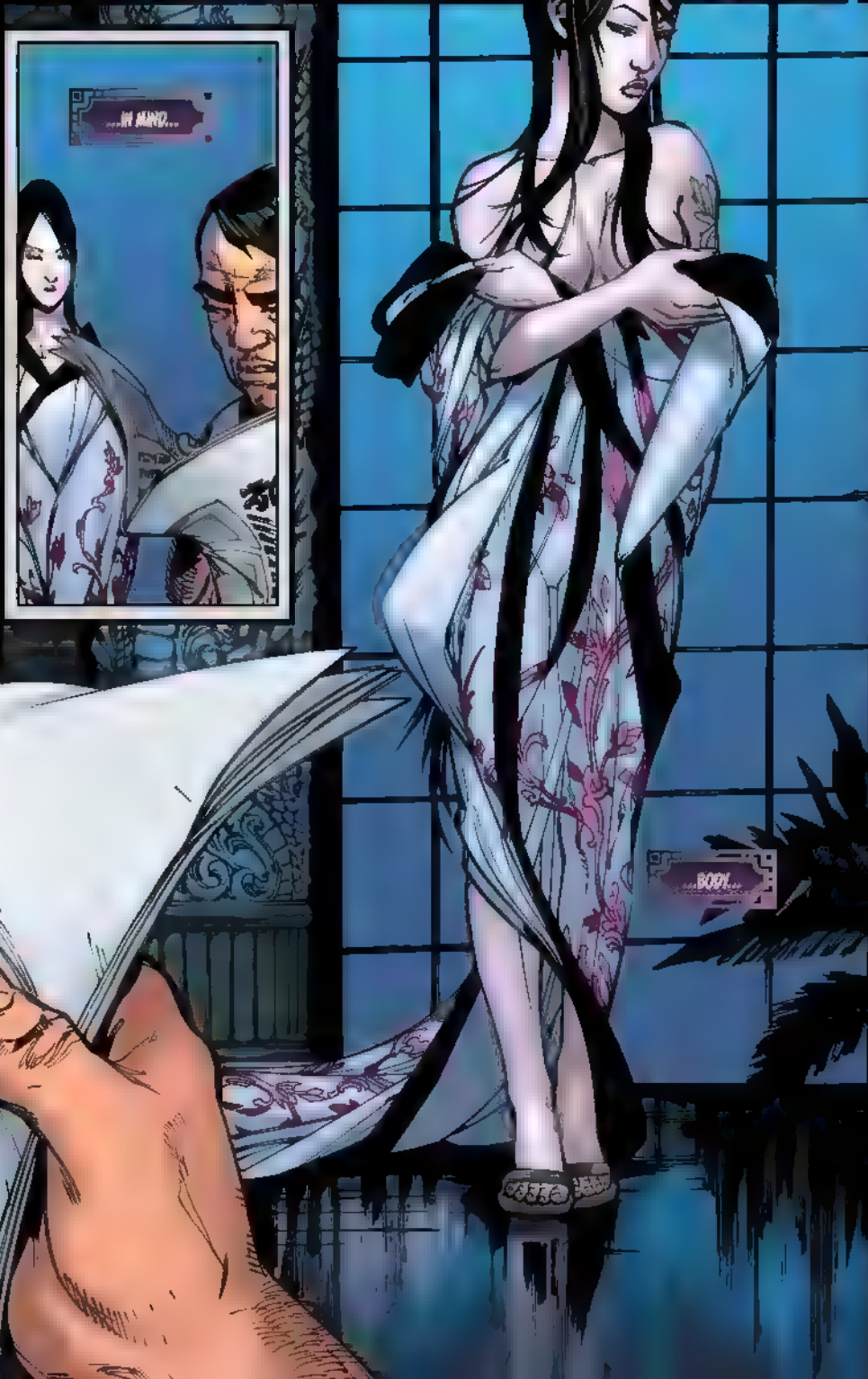
...FOR I
SERVE AT HIS
PLEASURE...



YOU MAY
UNDRESS
NOW.



IN MIND...



BODY...



...AND SPIRIT.

RAKAMPA MEDITATION
CENTER, NEW YORK.
MONDAY.

MY EMPLOYER FELT THAT IT WAS
ONLY APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO
ATTEND MISTER CHU'S FUNERAL.

SHORT,
ALAS, IS THE
LIFE OF A
MAN...

HE FELT IT WAS THE
LEAST HE COULD DO...

...LIMITED AND
FLEETING, FULL OF PAIN
AND TORMENT.

...UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE MAN LED AN
EXEMPLARY LIFE.

ONE
SHOULD WISELY
UNDERSTAND
THIS...

...DO GOOD
DEEDS AND
LEAD A HOLY
LIFE...

...FOR NO MORTALS
EVER ESCAPE
DEATH.

FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF THE
DECEASED ALAN
HANN LI CHU, DO NOT
WEEP OR LAMENT
WITH GRIEF...

HIS FAMILY SHOULD
BE VERY PROUD.

...TO DO
SO WOULD DO
NOTHING FOR THE
DECEASED, WHO
WILL REMAIN AS
THEY ARE. NOW
PLEASE RISE.

ALTHOUGH I'M NOT RELIGIOUS, MYSELF I
APPRECIATE THAT MISTER CHU'S FAMILY
CAN FIND SOME COMFORT IN THEIR FAITH...



...AND EACH OTHER.

THANK YOU
FOR A BEAUTIFUL
CEREMONY



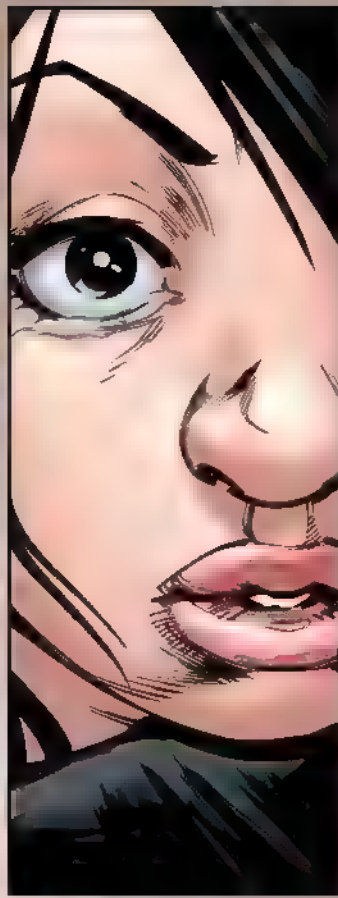
YOUR HUSBAND
WAS A KIND AND
LOVING MAN, MRS.
CHU.

~SNIFF~ THANK
YOU... HE ALWAYS
CONSIDERED YOU A
FRIEND, SAM.



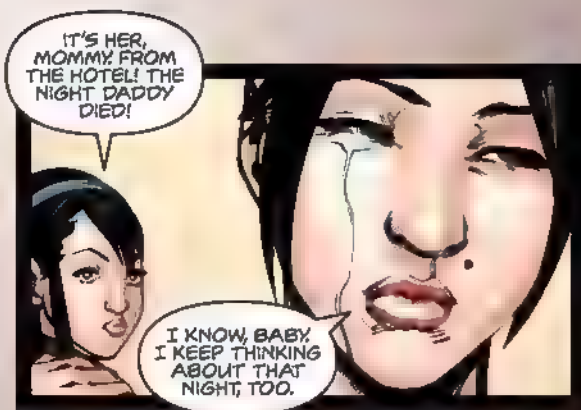
YOUR DADDY
LOVED YOU,
LEELEE, AND HE
STILL DOES.

BUT I MISS
HIM! I--



MOMMY--
I-- IT'S...

...IT'S
HER!



IT'S HER,
MOMMY FROM
THE HOTEL! THE
NIGHT DADDY
DIED!

I KNOW, BABY.
I KEEP THINKING
ABOUT THAT
NIGHT, TOO.



<HAVE THE JET
FUELED AND READY
FOR DEPARTURE IN 20
MINUTES. WE NEED TO
GET TO THE ROUND
TABLE.>

<Y-YES, OF
COURSE.>

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.
MONDAY EVENING.

THE ROUND TABLE, IN A SENSE, IT'S REALLY
JUST ANOTHER BOARD MEETING... WITH THE
MEN WHO MY EMPLOYER CALLS THE "SILENT
PARTNERS" OF THE COMPANY.

NEVER IN PLAIN SIGHT, THEY MEET IN THE
BACK ROOMS OF VARIOUS RESTAURANTS
AROUND THE WORLD.

BECAUSE THESE MEETINGS ARE
NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, NOT
WHEN THE MEMBERS INCLUDE:

TAKESO SUZUKI, OWNER OF A SERIES
OF GANG-OPERATED PACHINKO
PARLORS, CASINOS AND BROTHELS
IN JAPAN, CHINA AND THAILAND.

VICTOR HWANG, WORLDWIDE
IMPORTER/EXPORTER OF FINE GOODS,
BUT AT ONE TIME HE LED THE MOST
POWERFUL GANG IN SHANGHAI-- AND
HIS HANDS ARE STILL QUITE UNCLEAN.

SHUJI WAI HONG LI,
OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS "FATHER,"
JAPANESE/CHINESE
SHIPPING MAGNATE-- AND
THE MAN WHO RUNS THE
ACADEMY THAT TRAINED
(AND RAISED) ME.

MISTER CHING,
BEFORE YOU
ARRIVED WE WERE
ALL... REMARKING
ON YOUR RECENT
SUCCESSSES.

THANK YOU,
AND I TRUST
THAT YOU ALL
HAVE NOTICED
YOUR RECENT
DIVIDENDS HAVE
REFLECTED
THAT.

BUT OF
COURSE...

IS THERE
SOMETHING ON
YOUR MIND, SHUJI,
MY FRIEND?

YES, MY
FRIEND
THERE IS.



YOU WOULD
BE NOWHERE
WITHOUT US!
WITHOUT OUR
HELP!

WE WANT
WHAT'S DUE
TO US!



WUMP

ARE YOU
ACCUSING ME OF
HOLDING BACK ON
MY PARTNERS?!? HOW
DARE YOU? I HAVE
BEEN MORE THAN
GENEROUS WITH
YOU. ALL OF
YOU!!



BE THAT AS
IT MAY, CERTAINLY
THERE IS ROOM FOR
MORE GENEROSITY
IN LIGHT OF YOUR...
RECENT
WINDFALLS.

AFTER ALL, THE
WORLD GROWS EVER
MORE DANGEROUS,
AND PROTECTING
ONE'S INTERESTS CAN
BE AN EXPENSIVE
ENDEAVOR.



AND YOU'RE ALL IN
AGREEMENT ON THIS--
THIS EXTORTION?



NEVER!



NEVER.

LOS ANGELES.
TUESDAY MORNING.

I MUST
THINK ABOUT
THIS. CONTEMPLATE
MY NEXT MOVE
CAREFULLY AND
DELIBERATELY.



DAMN
THEM!

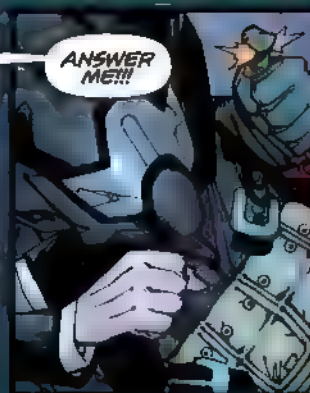
WE'RE NO
LONGER SAFE HERE,
IRIS. THIS IS TOO
OBVIOUS OF A
TARGET.

HAVE THE
JET FUELED AND
READY TO LEAVE
IN A HALF
HOUR.

WE'RE GOING
TO THE VANCOUVER
OFF-- IRIS, ARE YOU
LISTENING TO ME?
HOW DARE
YOU--

SIR-- GET
DOWN!

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?





TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #2



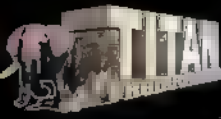
Vol. 1

#2

OF 6
COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A iris





Vol. 1

#2

OF 6
COVER B

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris





Vol. 1

#2

OF 6

COVER C

TITAN

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris



TM
2008
Kris



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸛尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE TWO]

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WUHAN, CHINA. THEN.

IN MY FIRST FEW WEEKS AT THE ACADEMY, BEFORE THE TRAINING BEGAN, I LOVED TO RUN THROUGHOUT THE GROUNDS.

IT WAS SO HUGE--A VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE NOVELS I'D INHABITED BEFORE.

IRIS--
WE CAN'T BE OUT HERE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LIAN? I LOVE THE RAIN!

LIAN WAS ONE OF MY FIRST ACQUAINTANCES THERE. SHE HAD ARRIVED SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER.

ALTHOUGH SHE WAS BARELY OLDER THAN ME, SHE TREATED ME LIKE A LITTLE SISTER...

WE NEED TO GET BACK INSIDE BEFORE--

YOU KIDS JUST MADE A BIG MISTAKE.

...ALWAYS TRYING TO KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE.

JUST LOOK DOWN, DON'T LOOK AT HER.

P--PLEASE. IT'S SO HOT AND STUFFY INSIDE. WE JUST WANT TO PLAY.

IN RETROSPECT, I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY FRIEND.

NO! PLEASE! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? NO!!!

LIAN!!! ANYONE!!! PLEASE!!!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

IN THE HOURS I WAS LEFT IN THE COLD, WET ISOLATION OF THE STORM CELLAR, MY MIND FILLED WITH UNBRIDLED EMOTION.

AT FIRST, I BELIEVED IT WAS TERROR I FELT. THEN I THOUGHT IT WAS SADNESS.

IT WAS NEITHER.

I WAS FURIOUS.

ANGRY AT THE BULLY WHO TORMENTED ME FOR NOTHING MORE THAN BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

AND MOST OF ALL, ANGRY AT MYSELF FOR BEING POWERLESS TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING.

ANGRY AT LIAM FOR NOT PROTECTING ME.

NEVER AGAIN WOULD I BE A VICTIM.

LOS ANGELES.
TUESDAY MORNING.

REVEREND

CRASH

THONK



MERE
MOMENTS AGO,
MY EMPLOYER
WAS THE VICTIM
OF A VICIOUS
ATTACK OF
TERRORISM...

NEVER
AGAIN,
IRIS.

...PERPETRATED
BY A THING IN
THE EMPLOY OF
ONE OF HIS
SO-CALLED
BUSINESS
ASSOCIATES.

FORMER BUSINESS
ASSOCIATES.

THERE IS NOTHING
MORE INSULTING THAN
TO ASSAULT A MAN IN
HIS OWN HOME--TO
FORCE HIM TO SEEK
PROTECTION--
TO COWER IN FEAR--
IN HIS OWN PERSONAL
HABIT BENEATH THE
FLOOR.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
ME?

A PRICE
MUST BE PAID
FOR THIS--THIS
CALAMITY!

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED
THEM APPROACHING.
I SHOULD HAVE
PREVENTED IT.

WE MUST
GO.

I HAVE FAILED
MY EMPLOYER.

I AM IN
NO MOOD
TO ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS
ABOUT THIS. WE
HAVE NO NEED
FOR CIVILIANS'
HELP.

I MUST MAKE
AMENDS.

THIS IS AN
INTERNAL MATTER,
IRIS. YOU SHALL BEGIN
IMMEDIATELY.

MONTE CARLO.
WEDNESDAY EVENING.

VICTOR HWANG WAS MY
EMPLOYER'S FIRST
BUSINESS PARTNER.

LE CASINO
DE MONTE-CARLO,
MADEMOISELLE.

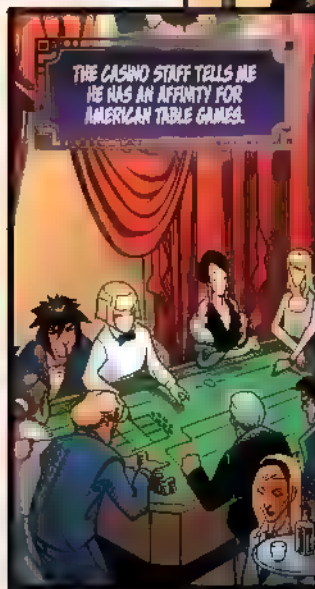
MERCI,
MONSIEUR.

HE SUPPLIED HWANG
WITH THE "LEGITIMATE"
BUSINESS NECESSARY TO
LAUNDER HIS GANG MONEY
OUT OF SHANGHAI.

ALWAYS MORE OF A RECLUSE,
HWANG SHUNS THE SPOTLIGHT,
PREFERRING TO SPEND HIS
DAYS AT SEA, ON HIS YACHT.

WITH HIS MAIN OFFICE IN NICE,
HWANG LIVES MOST OF HIS DAYS
ON THE MEDITERRANEAN.

AND WHILE HWANG IS IN
TOWN, HIS RIGHT HAND MAN,
MARC SAURO, PREFERS THE
CASINOS OF MONTE CARLO.



THE CASINO STAFF TELLS ME
HE HAS AN AFFINITY FOR
AMERICAN TABLE GAMES.



<ON THE
PASS LINE,
PLEASE...>>

<OF COURSE,
MADEMOISELLE.>

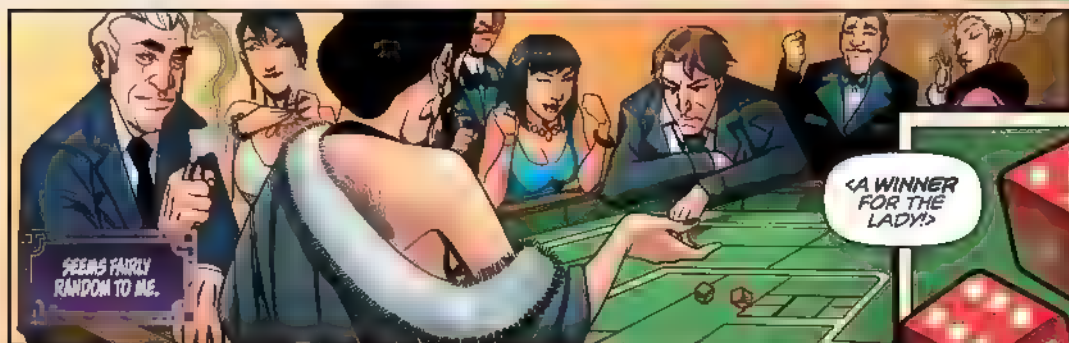
CRAPS, EXCLUSIVELY.

*TRANSLATED
FROM FRENCH.*



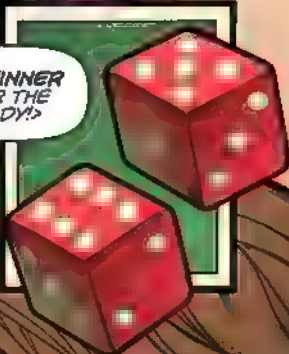
<YOUR
ROLL...>

THEY SAY CRAPS
IS SOMEHOW A
GAME OF SKILL.



SEEMS FAIRLY
RANDOM TO ME.

<A WINNER
FOR THE
LADY!>



BUT IT SERVED
IT'S PURPOSE...



...INCREASING THE
PROBABILITY THAT A
COMPULSIVE GAMBLER
WOULD NOTICE ME.



WHAT REMAINS
IS ANYTHING
BUT LUCK.

MADAMOISELLE,
EXCUSE ME. BUT WHY
ARE YOU LEAVING?
YOU HAD THE HOT
HAND!

I
DON'T
FOLLOW
YOU.

YOU WERE
WINNING! NOBODY
QUITS IN THE MIDDLE
OF A STREAK.

I SEE.



WELL...
GOOD EVENING,
MONSIEUR.

HANG ON
A MINUTE!



SURELY YOU
HAVE TIME FOR
ONE DRINK?



WHAT DID
YOU HAVE IN
MIND?

SOON...

KLUNK

HE TELLS ME ALL ABOUT HIS LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE: FROM HIS SUMMER HOME IN THE HAMPTONS AND HIS WINTER CABIN IN TELLURIDE, TO THIS CONDOMINIUM WITH IT'S OWN PRIVATE BEACH WHEN THE BOSS IS IN TOWN.

HE TELLS ME IN ON EVERY RAPID DETAIL.

HE LEADS SUCH A FULL LIFE, HE LAMENTES, BUT HAS NO ONE TO SHARE IT WITH.

COULD I BE THE ONE, HE WONDERS?

WE DECIDE TO TAKE A WALK ON THE BEACH.

I ASK HIM TO TELL ME ABOUT HIS BOSS, THE RECLUSIVE MISTER MWANG.

HE DEMEANES HIS EMPLOYER, CALLING HIM A FOOLISH ECCENTRIC.

HE'S NEVER BEEN ON MWANG'S BOAT--HE ONLY KNOWS OF HIS BOSS' EXACT WHEREABOUTS BECAUSE OF A GPS FEATURE ON HIS I-PHONE.

SAURO SUSPECTS THERE ARE STRANGE HAPPENINGS ABOARD...

DEVILANT SEX ACTS, PERHAPS.

THIS MAN
DISGUSTS ME.



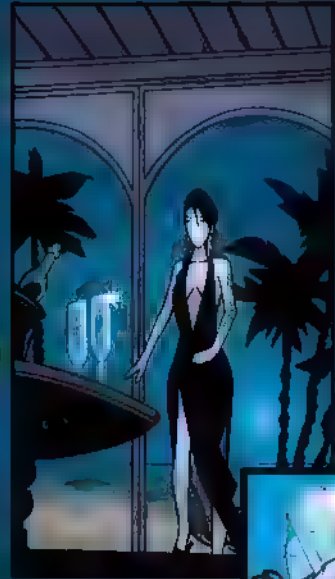
MMM
MMMM
MM...

...MMM
FFFFMM
MM...

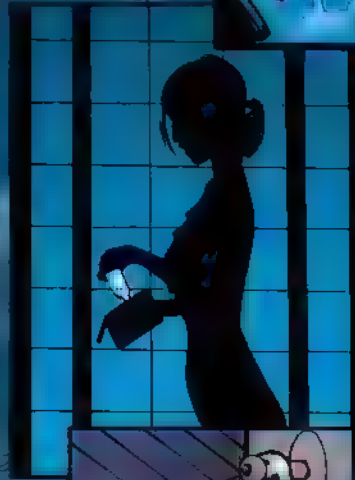
...MMM
MMMMMM
MM-

HE HAD MENTIONED A 4-AM
CONFERENCE CALL WITH HIS
EMPLOYER AND THEIR
SINGAPORE OFFICE.

I HAVE LITTLE
TIME...



...TO DISAPPEAR...



...AND COMPLETE
THE TASK AT HAND.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

TWO GUARDS ABOVE
DECK. THE OTHER IS
UNDOUBTEDLY BELOW.

IT SEEMS THEY'RE
EXPECTING ME.

THE HELL?

WHAT IS
IT, JOEL?

NOTHIN'
TO WORRY
ABOUT.

CAN
WE SHOOT
HIM ANYWAY?
I'M KINDA
BORED.

BUT KEEP
YOUR EYES OPEN
FOR ANYTHING
SUSPICIOUS.

OUT HERE,
YOU NEVER KNOW
WHAT MIGHT
POP UP

LEAVE
HIM ALONE,
GABE.

GUY'S
JUST TRYIN'
TO EARN A
LIVING. JUST
LIKE US.

RIGHT.
WHATEVER
YOU SAY.

WELL, COULD WE AT LEAST ASK THE GUY FOR ONE OF HIS FISH? I'M STARVIN'!

HEY, YOU THINK THE GALLEY IS STILL OPEN? I COULD USE A CREPE.

HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? GO SEE FOR YOURSELF.

ALL RIGHT. JEEZ-- A GUY CAN'T ASK A FREAKIN' QUESTION WITHOUT--HNN?

HRK? HRKLLKK KK--

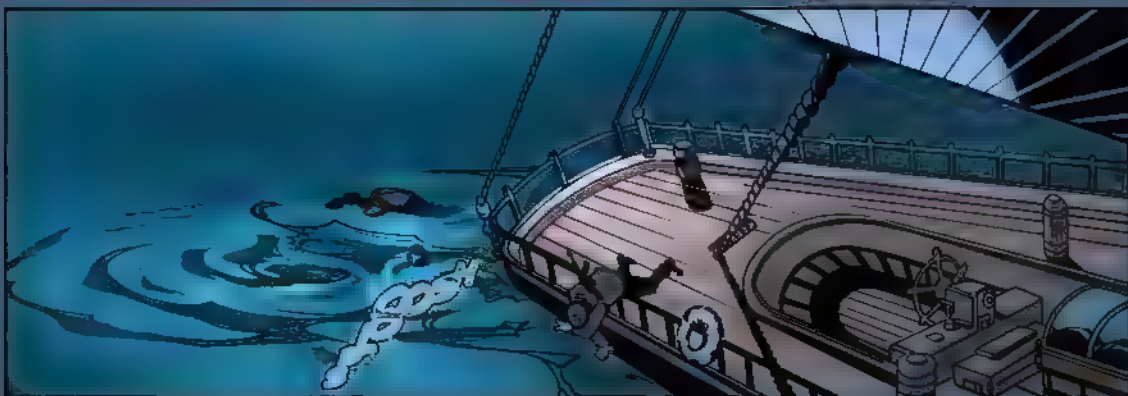
SNPTT

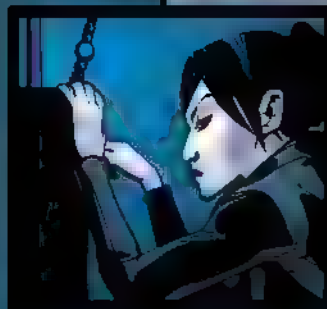
HKKLL LLLAAK K--

JESUS, GABE! I GET IT. YOU'RE HUNGRY! JUST GO DOWNSTAIRS AND--

GABE?!

THWOSH



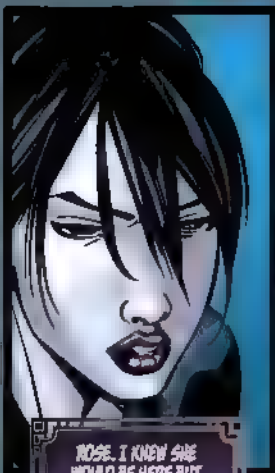




THWOOOSH

...ROSE.

IRIS, IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.



ROSE. I KNEW SHE
WOULD BE HERE BUT
IT'S STILL SO...
DISCOMFORTING.



AFTER ALL WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH...
ALL WE'VE SEEN
TOGETHER.

SHE WAS RIGHT THERE WHEN I
FINALLY WAS ALLOWED TO SEE
WHAT THE ACADEMY WAS
REALLY ABOUT.



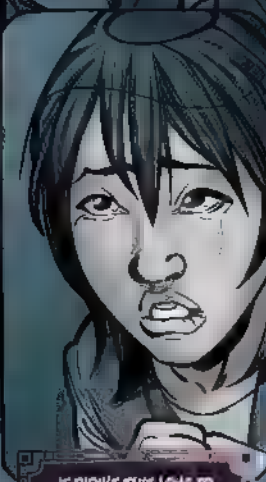
...I WAS PETRIFIED...

...AND YET, EXHILARATED,
BECAUSE SOMEONE HAD
DONE WHAT I COULD NOT...

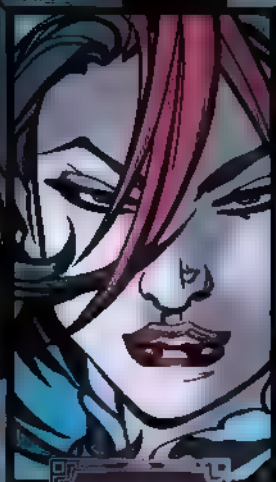


...TAKE DOWN
THE BULLY.


ROSE JUST WANTED
TO GO HOME.



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO
REALIZE THAT, LIKE IT OR
NOT, THIS WAS THE ONLY
HOME SHE HAD.



AND SHE MADE
THE MOST OF IT.



ROSE,
I HAVE NO
QUALMS WITH
YOU. JUST LET
ME FINISH MY
TASK--

AND
THEN WHAT,
IRIS?

MY
CAREER
WOULD BE
OVER!




BUT
YOU...

WHISPER

...YOU MUST SEE
HOW POINTLESS
ALL OF THIS IS
FOR YOU!

ENLIGHTEN
ME.



IRIS, PLEASE
REMEMBER THAT YOU
HAVE OPTIONS
HERE.

MY EMPLOYER
HAS AGREED TO
ALLOW ME TO SPARE
YOUR LIFE. I ADVISE
YOU TO CONSIDER
THE OFFER.

CHING IS THE
ONE THEY WANT,
AND FATHER WON'T
RELENT UNTIL HE'S
DEAD. YOU KNOW
THAT.

YOU'D JUST
BE COLLATERAL
DAMAGE!

BE SERIOUS!
YOU CAN'T KILL
US ALL, IRIS!

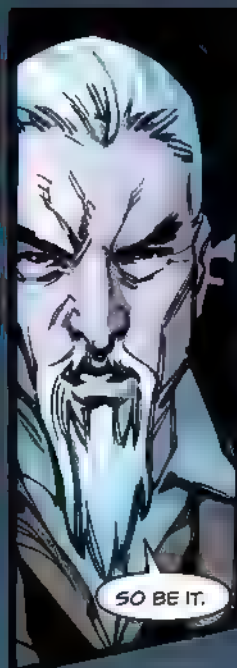


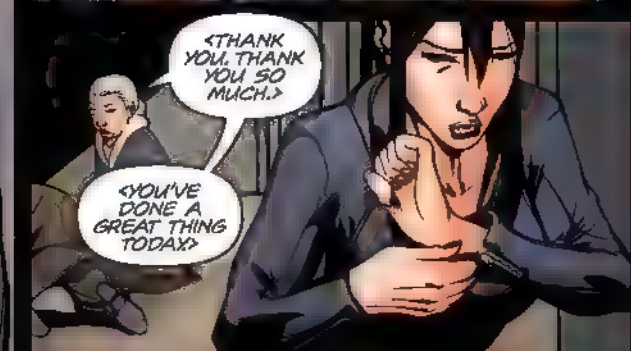
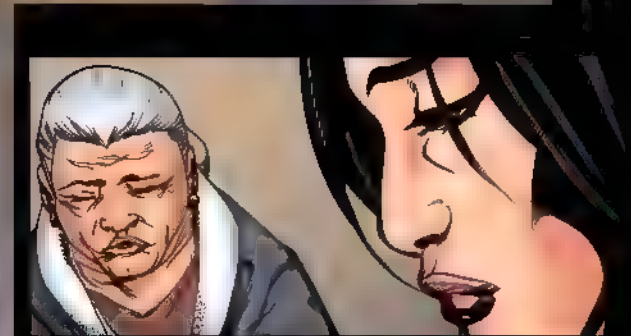
WATCH ME!

NNNNN
NNNNNN
NNNN...

KRASH

BOOM!





VANCOUVER, CANADA.
FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

IRIS, HAVE
YOU SEEN THE
NEWS TODAY?

IT APPEARS
THAT RENOWNED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMAN
VICTOR HWANG WAS KILLED,
ALONG WITH SEVERAL AS OF
YET UNIDENTIFIED OTHERS, IN
A FREAK ACCIDENT ON
HIS YACHT.

APPARENTLY,
SOME FAULTY WIRING
STARTED A FIRE THAT
IGNITED THE FUEL
TANKS, CAUSING AN
EXPLOSION.

AMAZING HOW
THAT SEEMS TO BE
GOING AROUND
LATELY...

...OH, AND
WHILE YOU WERE
GONE, YOU RECEIVED A
NUMBER OF CALLS ON
YOUR VOICEMAIL FROM
THAT **RUCKER**
FELLOW.

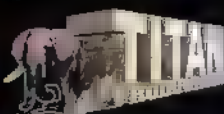
IT
APPEARS
HE'S QUITE
TAKEN WITH
YOU.

PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD PAY HIM A
VISIT BEFORE YOU TAKE
CARE OF BUSINESS IN
TOKYO. KEEP HIM ON
THE HOOK, AS IT
WERE.

AS YOU
WISH, SIR.

INDEED.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #3



Vol. 1

#3

OF 6
COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT iris





VOL. 1

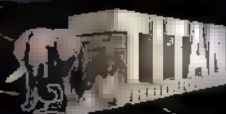
#3

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COVER B

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

KRIS





VOL. 1

3

OF 6
COVER C

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸢尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE THREE]



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Brad Foxhoven *_story_*
David Wohl *_script_*

illustrations *_Eduardo Francisco_*
inking assistant *_Alex Lei_*
colors *_John Starr_*
letters *_Josh Reed_*



created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

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SHINJUKU DISTRICT, TOKYO.
WEDNESDAY, 8:20 PM.

MY EMPLOYER FIRST MET
TAKED SUZUKI ON THESE
VERY STREETS, NEARLY
30 YEARS AGO.

TAKED WAS A YOUNG GANGSTER
ON THE RISE, SURROUNDED BY
PLENTY OF COMPETITION. HE
NEEDED AN EDGE.

WHEN MY EMPLOYER SUGGESTED
TAKED ALLY HIMSELF WITH HIMING,
A MAN WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS IN
SHANGHAI, HE SCOFFED.

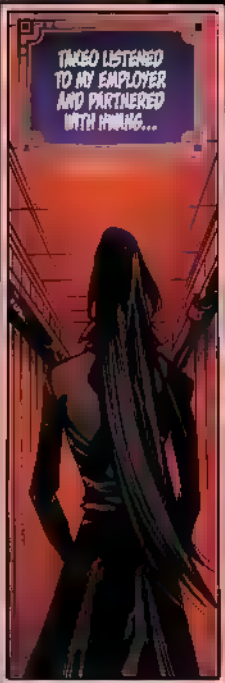
TAKED EXPLAINED THAT NO SELF-
RESPECTING JAPANESE ENTREPRENEUR
WOULD DO BUSINESS WITH THE CHINESE.
"SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN BUSINESS," HE CLAIMED.

«CAN I
HELP YOU,
MISS?»

«YES, I'M
HERE TO SEE
VIC TAKAHASHI?»

«TRANSLATED
FROM JAPANESE.»

MISTER CHUNG LAUGHED, PATTED TAKED ON
THE SHOULDER AND SAID, "NOTHING IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN BUSINESS, MY FRIEND!"



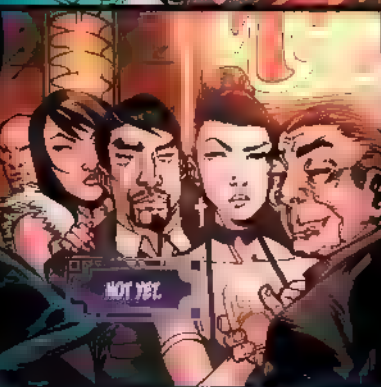
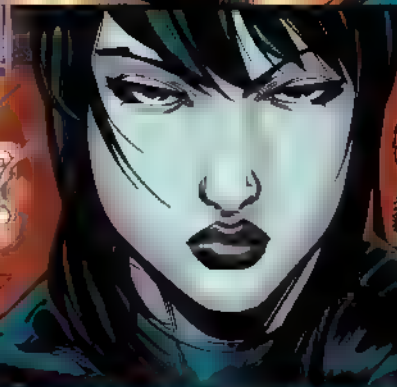
TAKAO LISTENED
TO MY EMPLOYER
AND PARTNERED
WITH HIM...



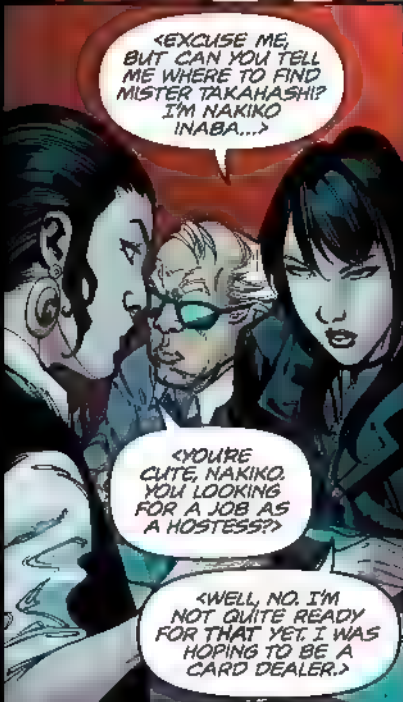
...AND HIS BUSINESS
ROOMS.

NOW HE SITS ATOP THE LARGEST
UNDERGROUND GAMBLING
OPERATION IN TOKYO.

AND WHILE MOST GANG-RELATED ACTIVITIES OCCUR
IN SECRET, AS FAR AWAY FROM SCRUTINIZING EYES
AS POSSIBLE, TAKAO HAS PAID OFF SO MANY
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND RIVAL GANGSTERS
THAT HE FEARS NO ONE.



NOT YET.



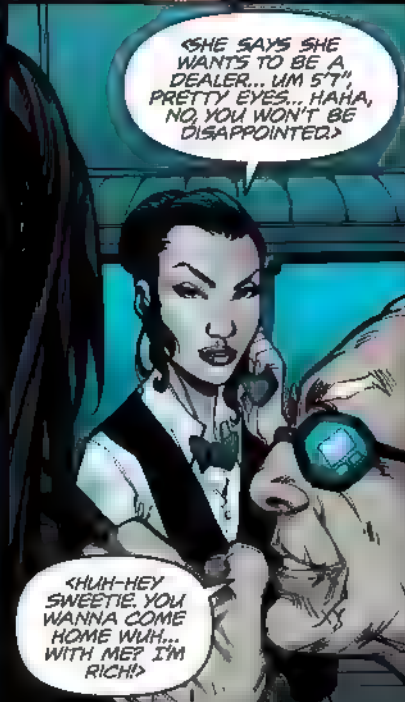
<EXCUSE ME,
BUT CAN YOU TELL
ME WHERE TO FIND
MISTER TAKAHASHI?
I'M NAKIKO
INABA...>

<YOU'RE
CUTE, NAKIKO.
YOU LOOKING
FOR A JOB AS
A HOSTESS?>

<WELL, NO. I'M
NOT QUITE READY
FOR THAT YET. I WAS
HOPING TO BE A
CARD DEALER.>



<HEY IT'S
NIKKI. IS VIC
AROUND?>



<SHE SAYS SHE
WANTS TO BE A
DEALER... UH 5'7",
PRETTY EYES... HAHA,
NO YOU WON'T BE
DISAPPOINTED.>

<HUH-HEY
SWEETIE, YOU
WANNA COME
HOME WITH ME? I'M
RICH!>





«CERTAINLY»

~MMMMMMM~

«YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE A DEALER? CUZ I CAN THINK OF SOME OTHER JOBS YOU'D BE MORE THAN QUALIFIED FOR.»

«I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT I TRY TO BE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN, YOU KNOW?»

«CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYIN'»

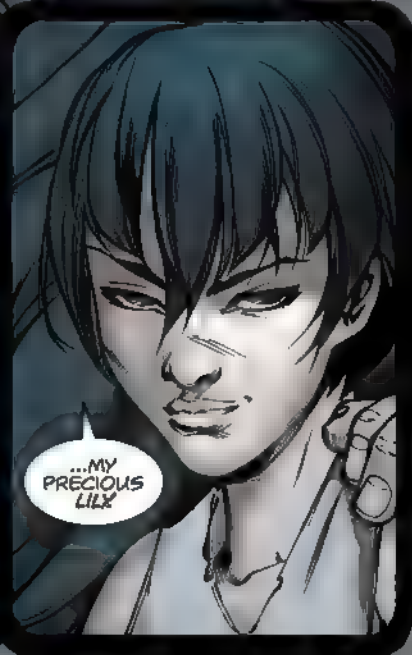
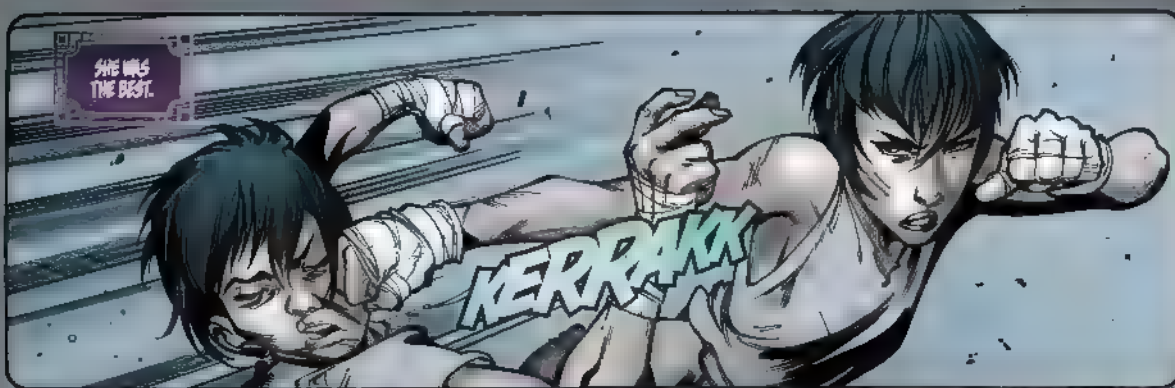
«HERE, TAKE THIS AND HEAD OVER TO THE YUMMY YUMMY HOSTESS BAR. MISTER SUZUKI WILL BE EXPECTING YOU.»

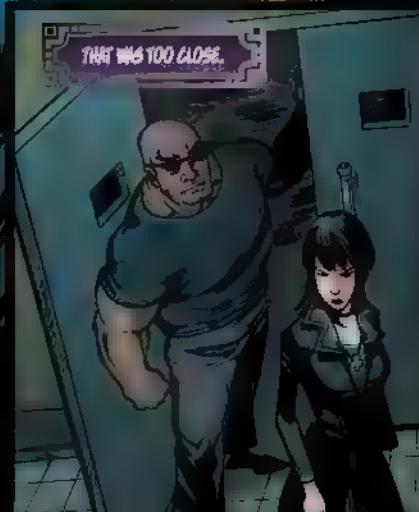
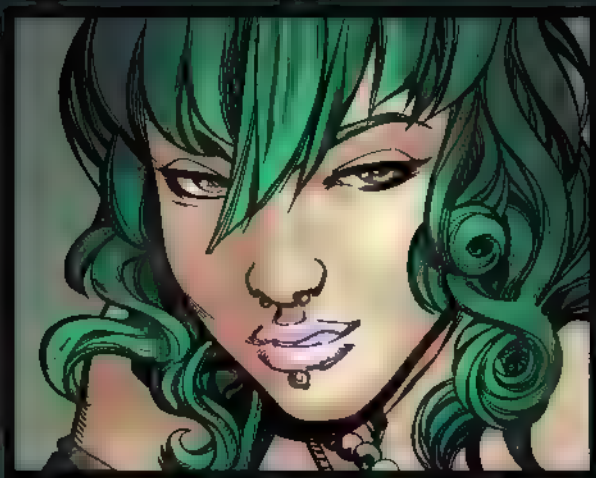
TAKES CONTROLS OVER A DOZEN BUSINESSES IN SAKURAKU ALONE.

ALL PLACES THAT ARE RIDDLED WITH GAMBLING, DRUGS AND PROST~

I-- KNOW HER.

KNOW HER...





LATER THAT EVENING...

WELL, SHE COULDN'T HAVE
RECOGNIZED ME.

IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG.

AND WE'VE EMBARKED
UPON SUCH...
DIFFERENT PATHS.

<HELLO.
I'M HERE TO
SEE MISTER
SUZUKI.>

<OF
COURSE.>

<LET ME
GET THAT
FOR YOU...>

<ENJOY...>

PENTHOUSE...

...MY EMPLOYER HAD MENTIONED THAT TAKEO HAD BECOME SOMETHING OF A... NEDONIST.

THAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



<SO... THIS MUST BE NAKIKO.>

<YES... VERY NICE... PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.>

<I HOPE YOU LIKE CRISTAL. IT'S A PREREQUISITE FOR ALL MY... INTERVIEWS.>

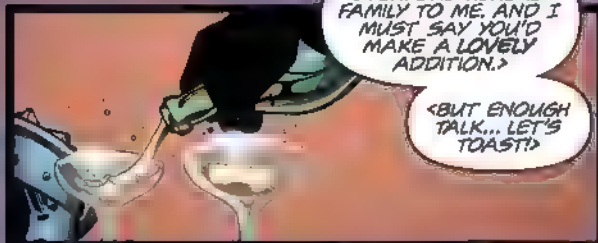
<SO MS... INABA, I'M FLATTERED THAT YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME... BUT I WONDER WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?>

<MISTER SUZUKI, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. I CAN THINK OF NOBODY I'D RATHER WORK FOR.>



<YES, IT'S TRUE. EVERYONE HERE IS FAMILY TO ME, AND I MUST SAY YOU'D MAKE A LOVELY ADDITION.>

<BUT ENOUGH TALK... LET'S TOAST!>





<TO MY
NEWEST
EMPLOYEE...>

<THANK
YOU, SIR. BUT
IS THERE A PLACE
WHERE WE CAN
BE... ALONE...>

<...WHERE
I CAN REALLY
SHOW MY
GRATITUDE.>

<SOON,
DARLING.>

<NAKIKO...>

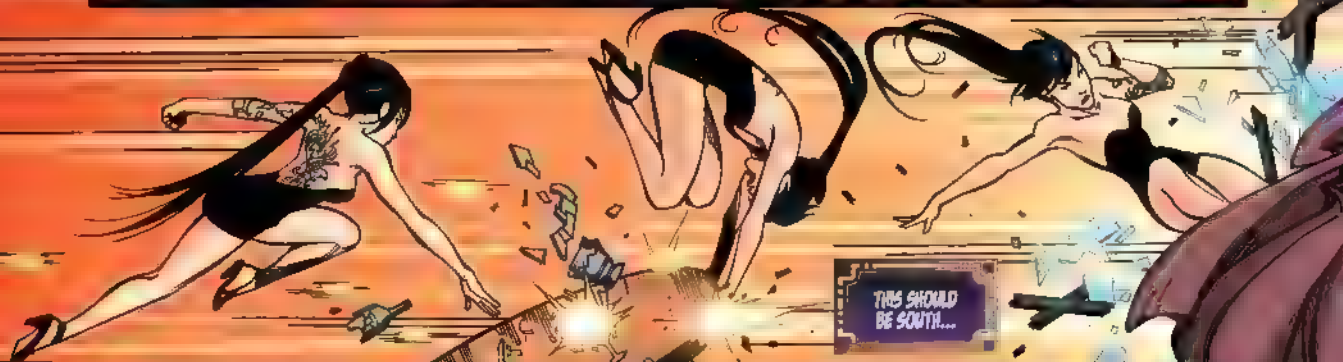
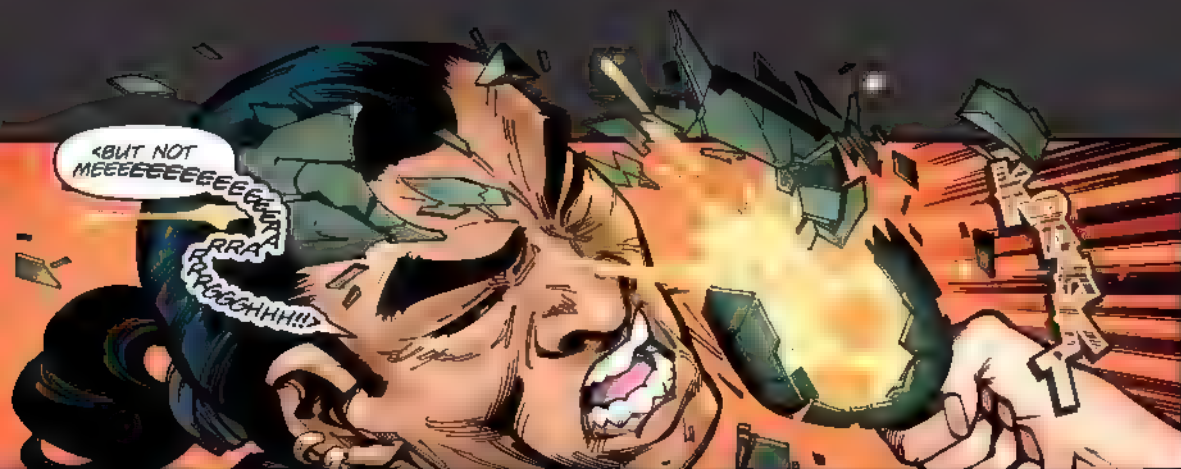
<YOU REALLY
EXPECTED TO
WALTZ RIGHT INTO
MY TOWN AND
JUST TAKE ME
OUT?>

<I TOLD CHING
THOSE EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS WOULD
BE THE DEATH
OF HIM...>

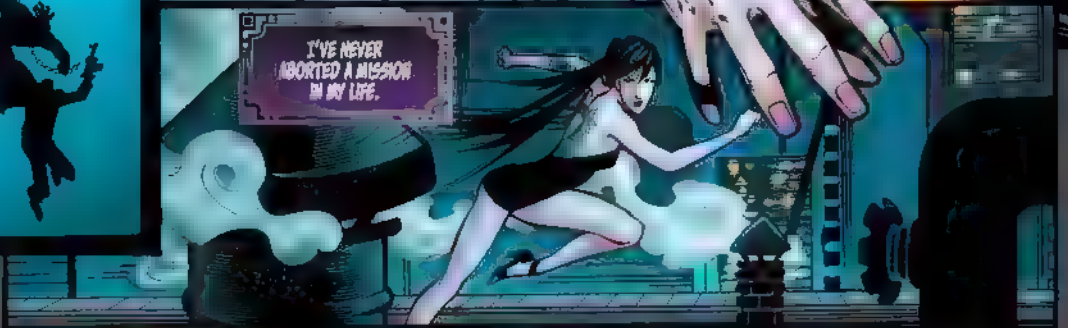
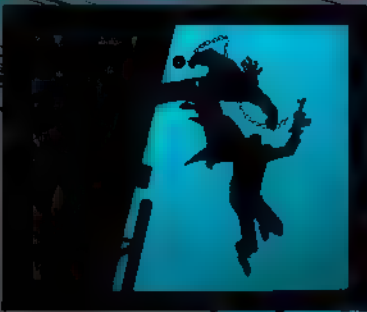
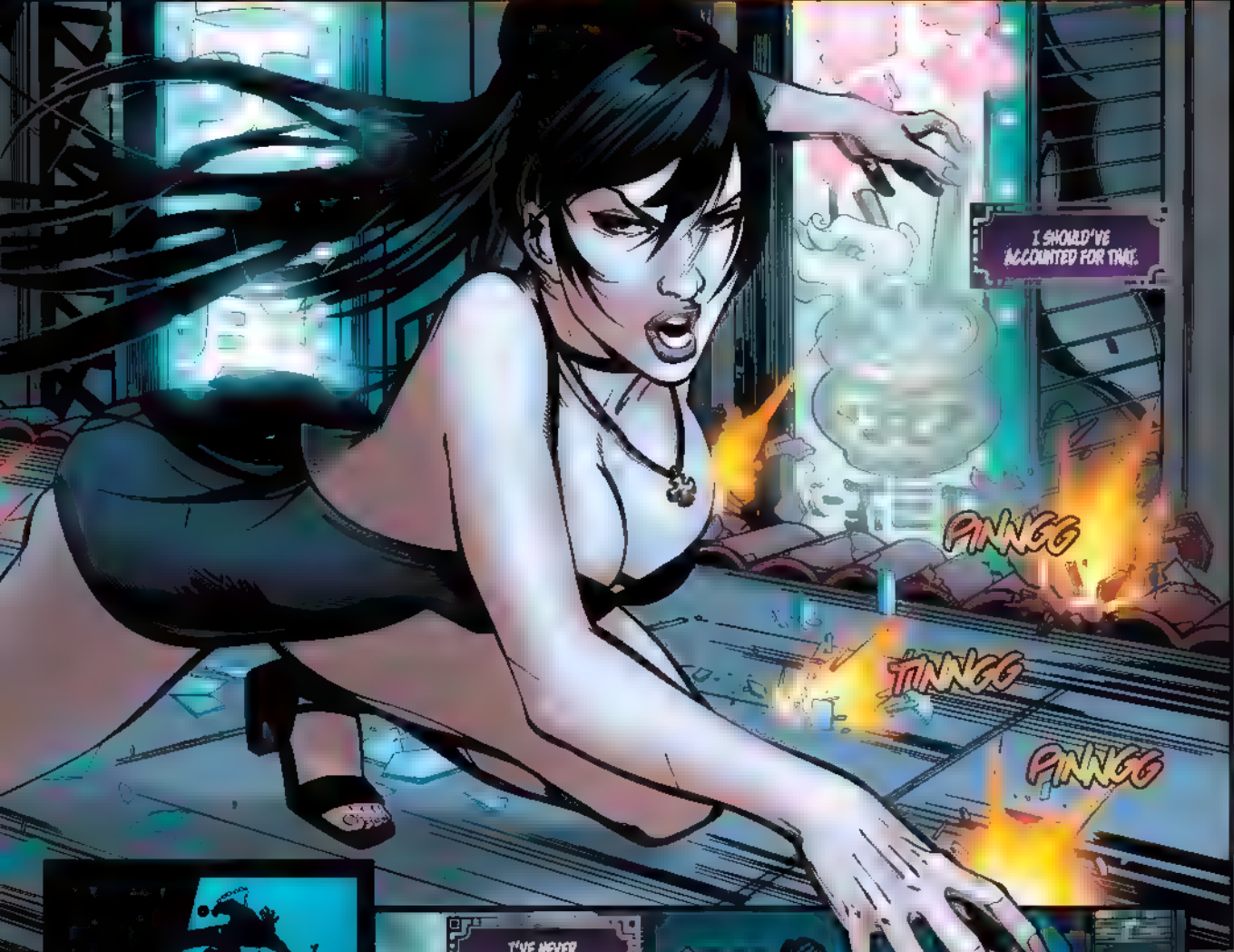
<...IS THAT THE
SAME NAME YOU
USED TO TAKE OUT
POOR HWANG?>

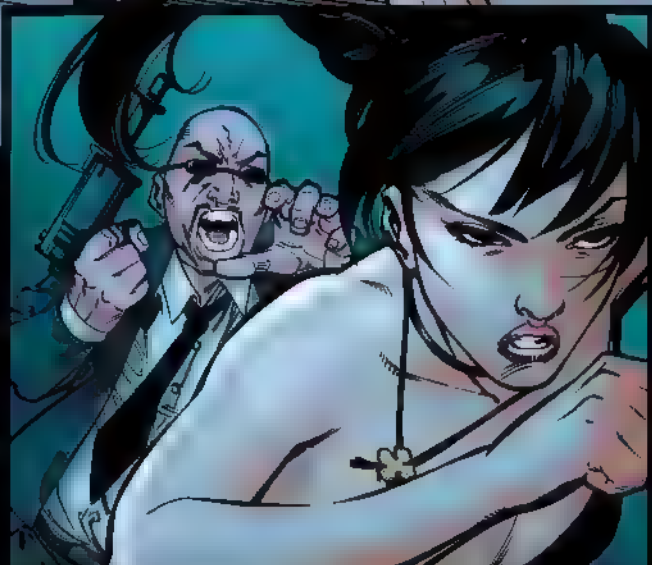
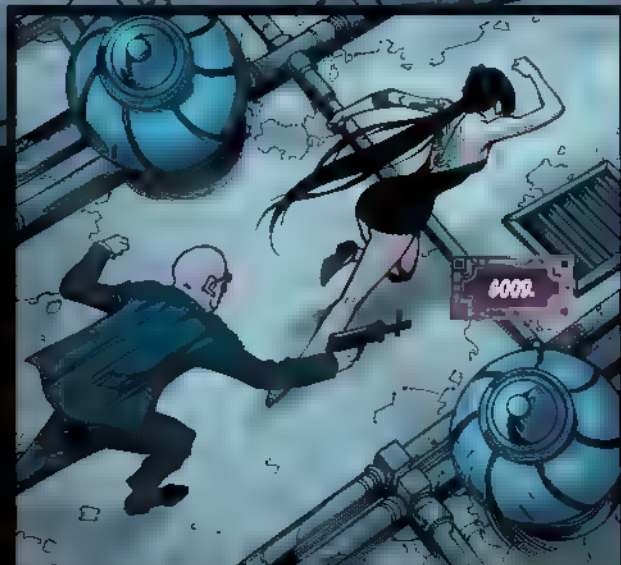
<I'M SORRY
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU-->

QUIET!





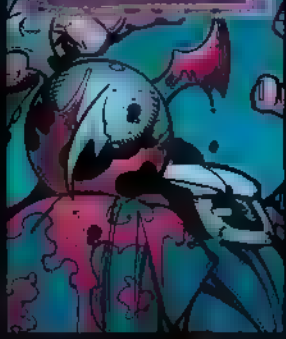








HAH. NOT A VERY
ACCURATE WEAPON BUT IT
DOES SEEM TO DO ITS JOB.



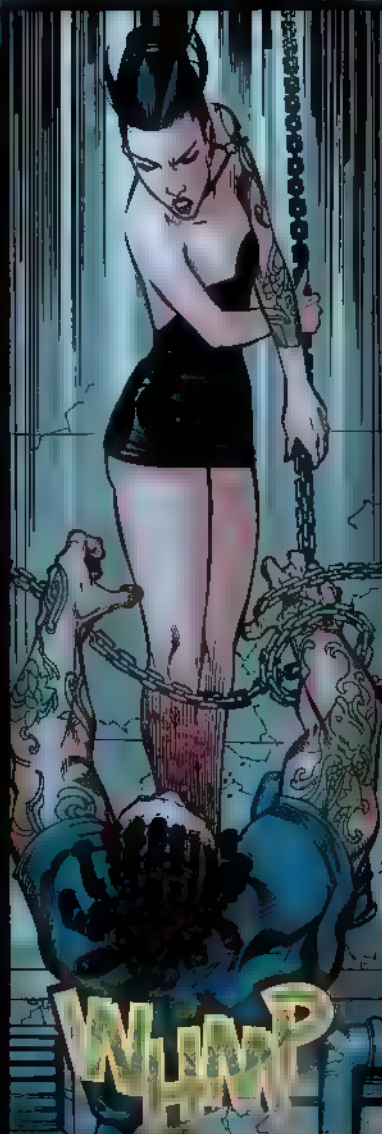
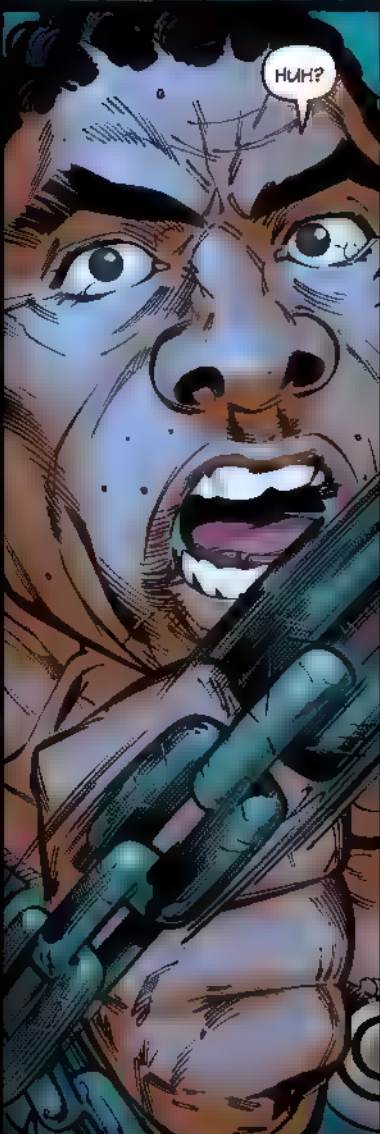
AND THE RETRACTABLE
CHAIN IS USEFUL.



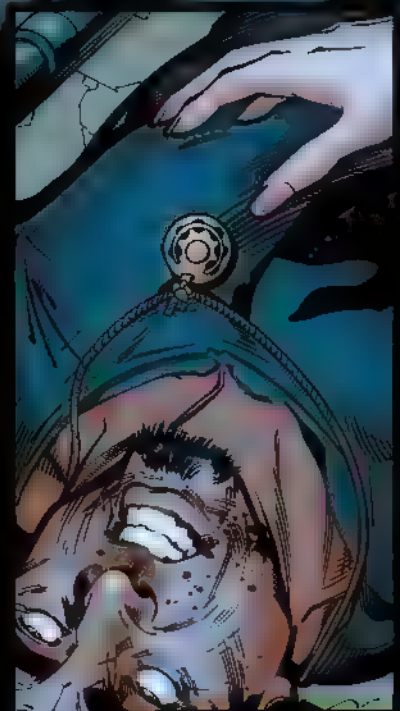
FOR BOTH OF US.



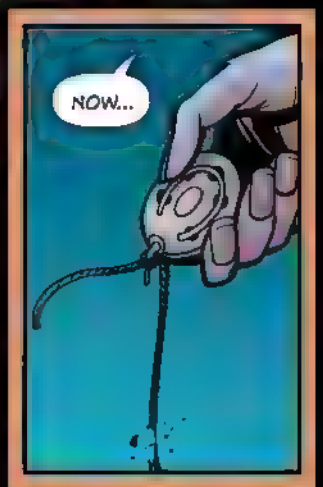
HUH?

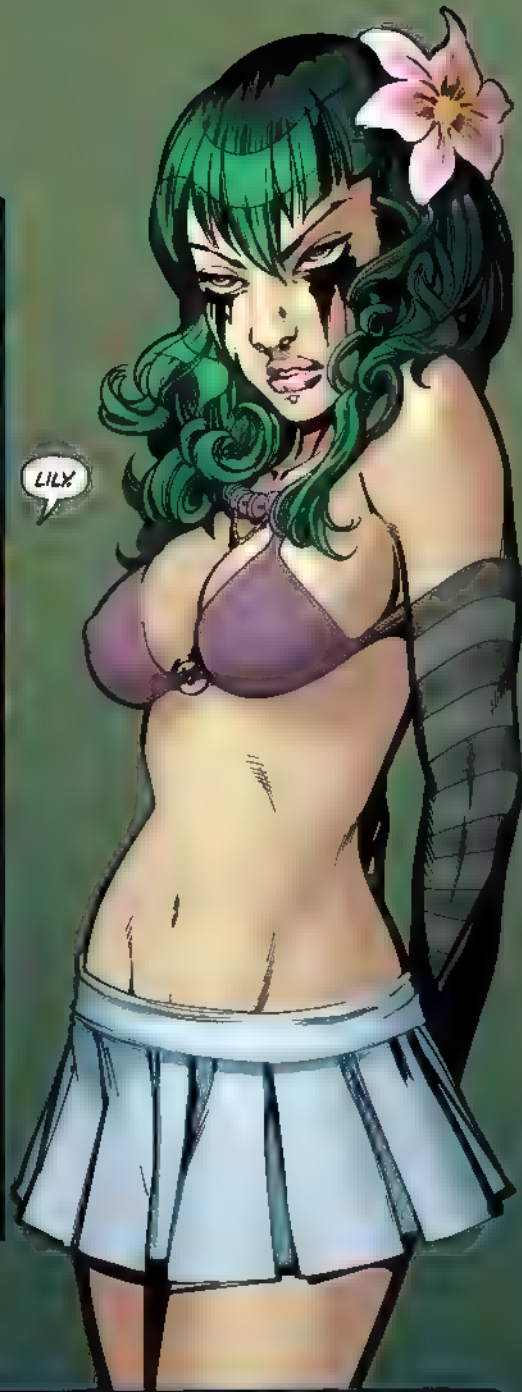


WUMP
WUMP



NOW...





FATHER BELIEVED SHE WAS ALMOST READY TO LEAVE THE ACADEMY.



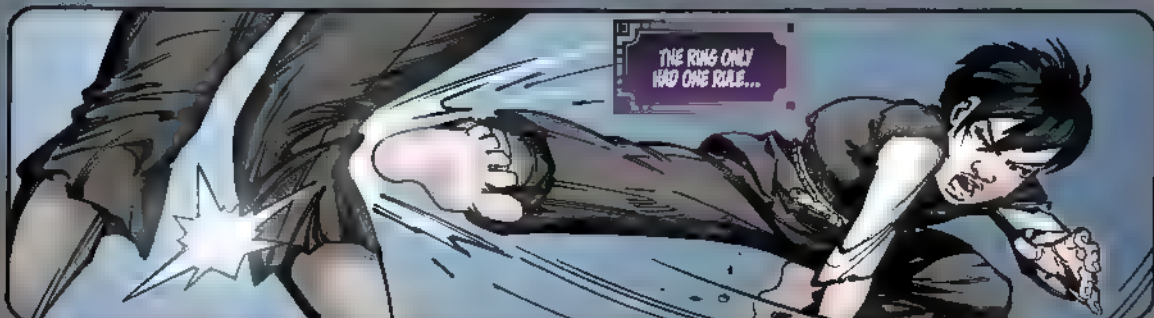
SHE WAS TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT YET.

BUT A YOUNGER GIRL HAD JUST GRADUATED TO RING COMBAT.



AND SHE INTENDED TO MAKE THE MOST OF HER OPPORTUNITY.

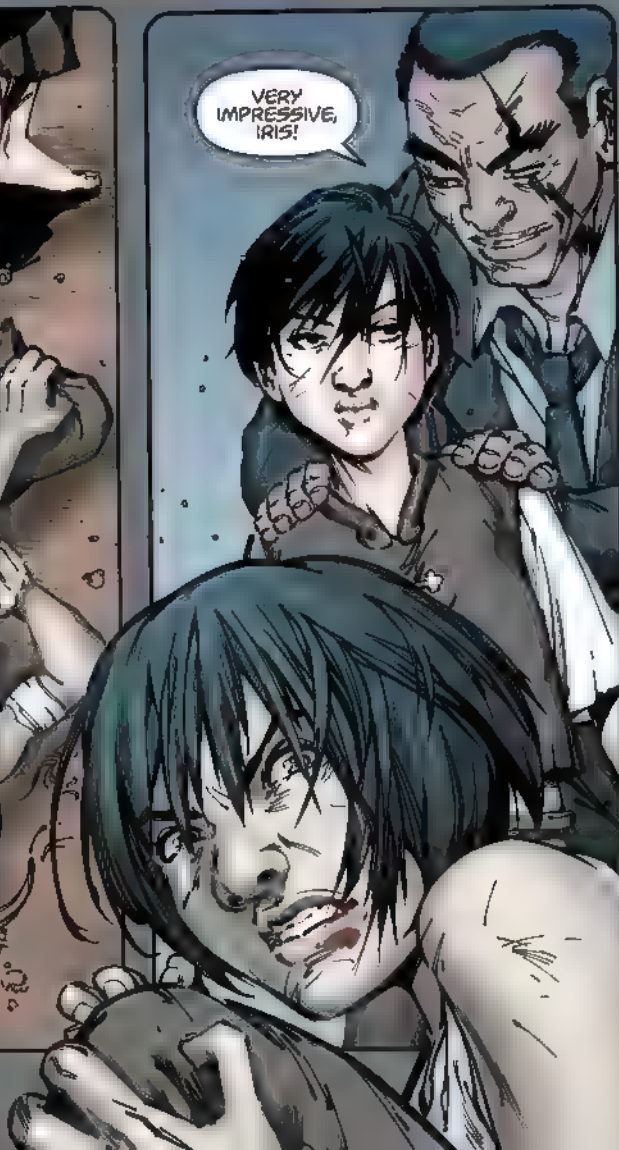
THE RING ONLY HAD ONE RULE...



PLAY TO WIN.

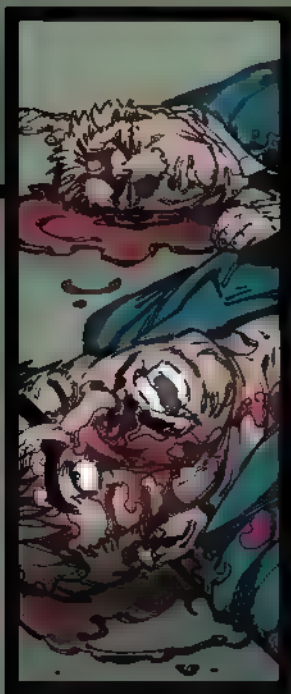
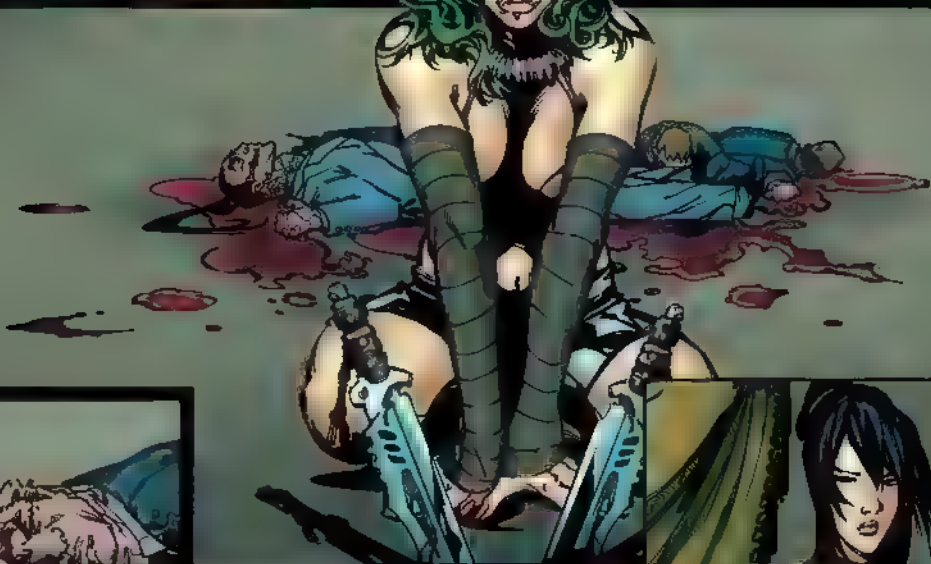
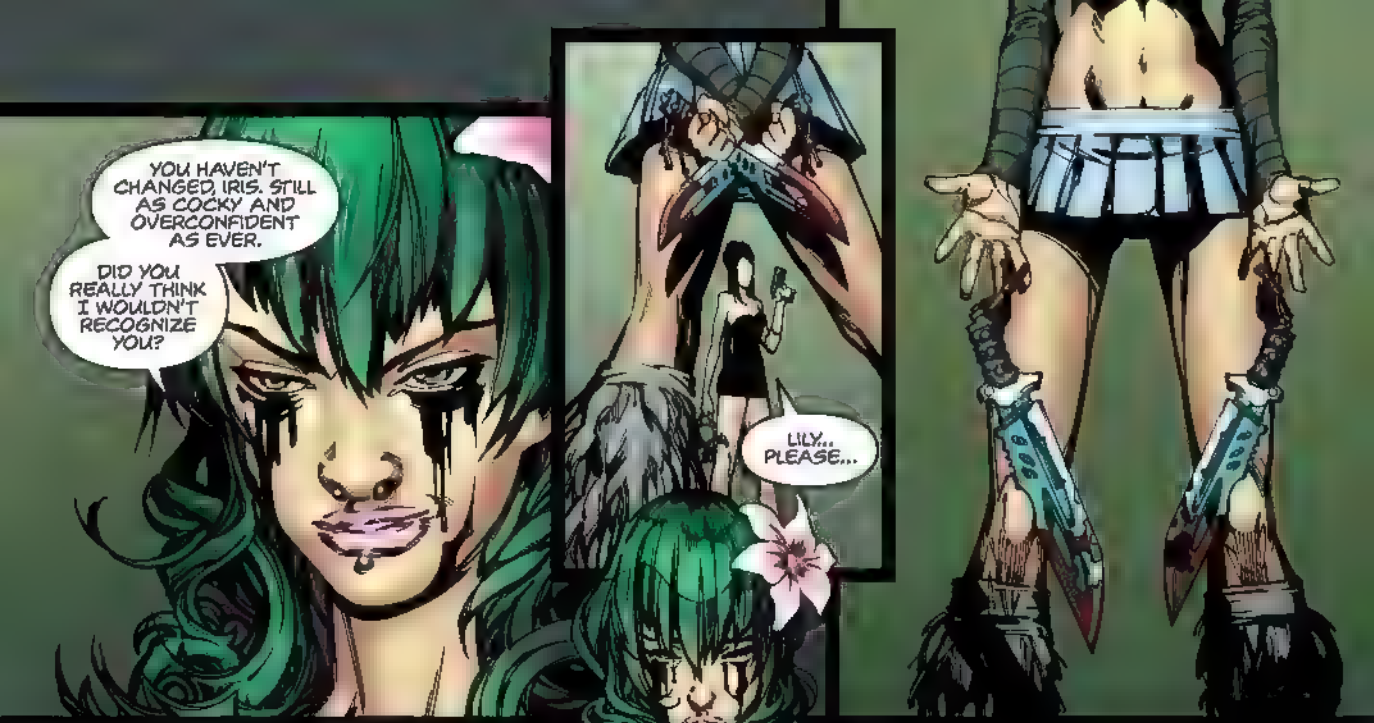


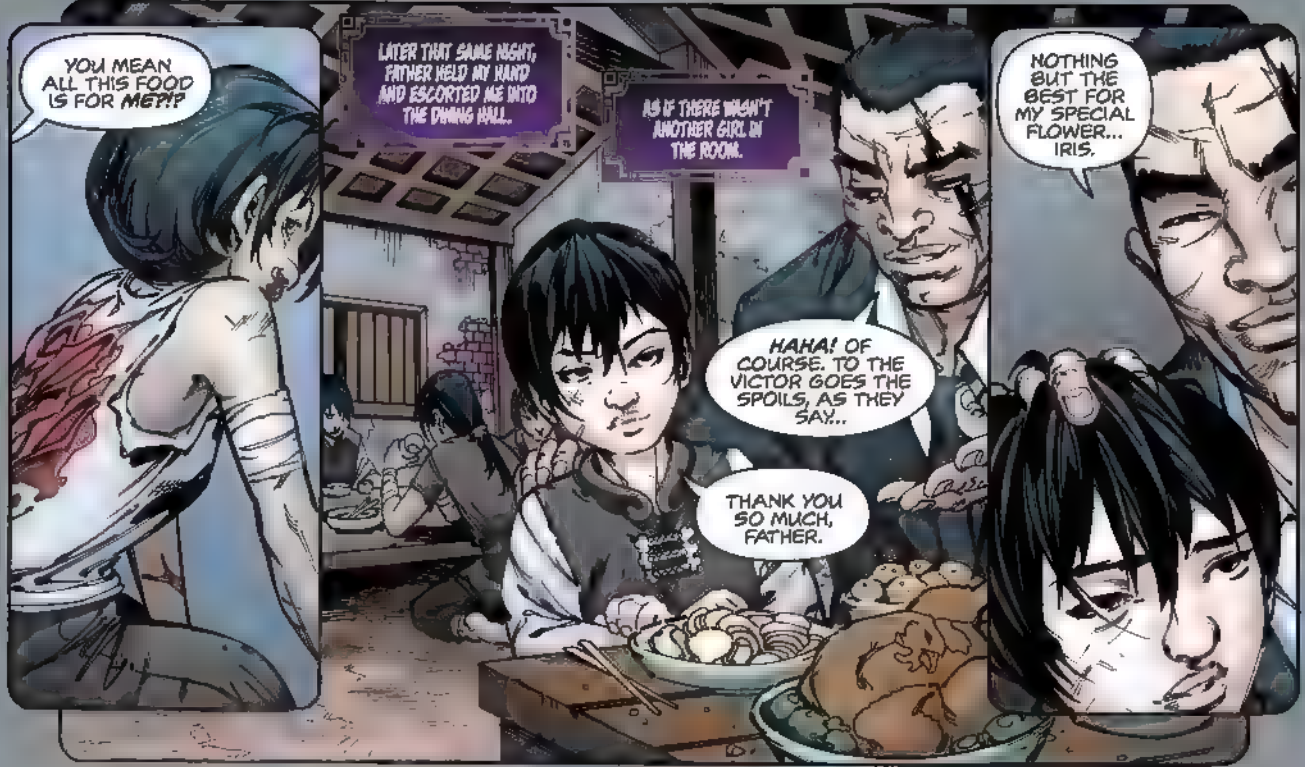
VERY IMPRESSIVE, IRIS!



YOU ARE OUR NEW CHAMPION!







YOU MEAN ALL THIS FOOD IS FOR ME??

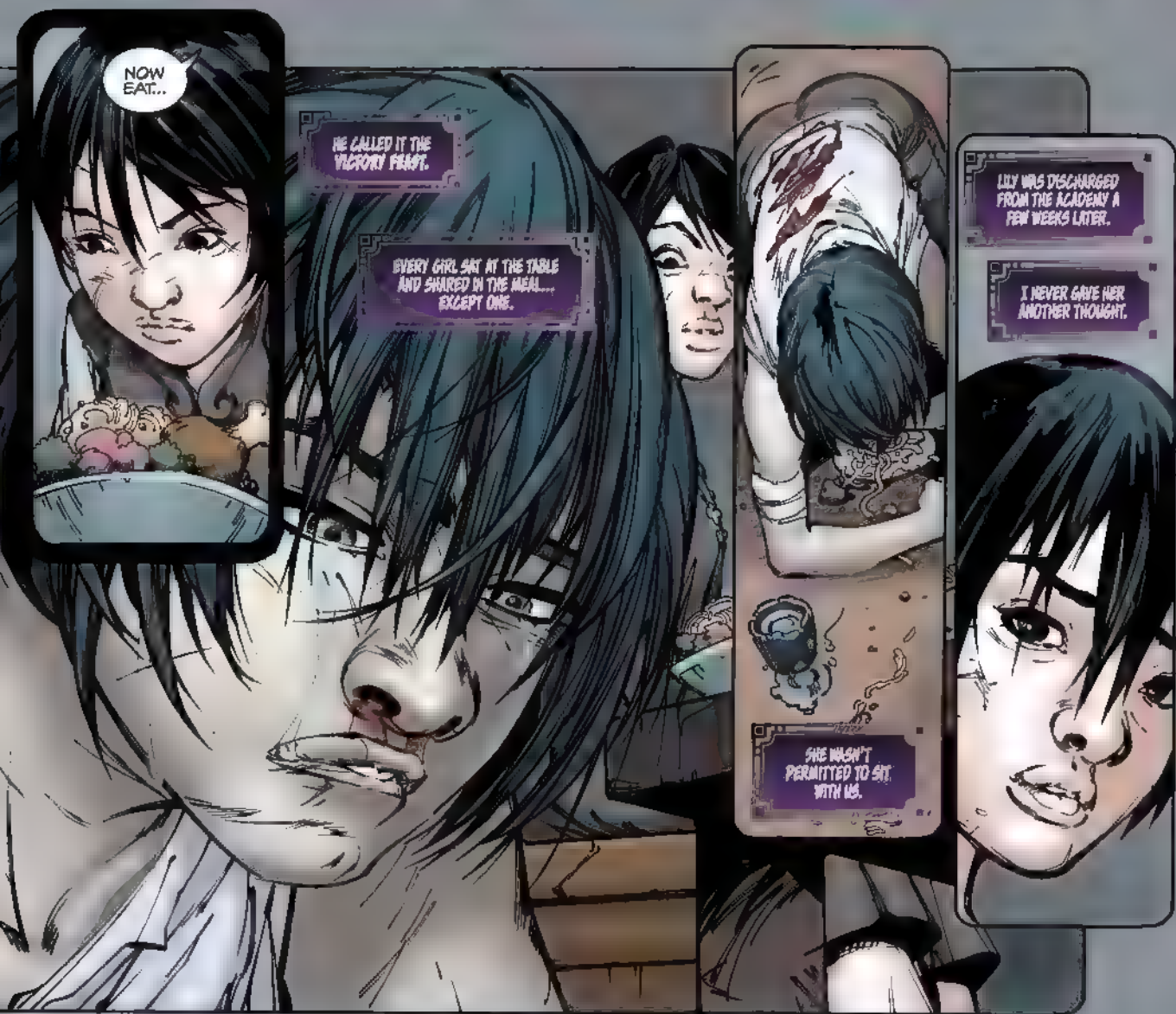
LATER THAT SAME NIGHT, FATHER HELD MY HAND AND ESCORTED ME INTO THE DINING HALL.

AS IF THERE WASN'T ANOTHER GIRL IN THE ROOM.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR MY SPECIAL FLOWER... IRIS.

HAHA! OF COURSE. TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILS, AS THEY SAY...

THANK YOU SO MUCH, FATHER.



NOW EAT...

HE CALLED IT THE VICTORY FEAST.

EVERY GIRL SAT AT THE TABLE AND SHARED IN THE MEAL... EXCEPT ONE.

LILY WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ACADEMY A FEW WEEKS LATER.

I NEVER GAVE HER ANOTHER THOUGHT.

SHE WASN'T PERMITTED TO SIT WITH US.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. FRIDAY.

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
TALE, IRIS.

I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE THE
LOOK ON TAKEO'S
FACE WHEN HIS OWN
HOOKER LITERALLY
STABBED HIM IN
THE BACK!

I'M SURE
IT WAS QUITE
THE SPEC--

IRIS, ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?

MY
APOLOGIES,
SIR.

AND IT SEEMS
OUR FRIEND RUCKER
IS BECOMING A
NUISANCE. PERHAPS
IT IS TIME TO END
THAT CHARADE.

!GASP!

DO YOU
REQUIRE
ANYTHING
ELSE, SIR?

THAT WILL
BE ALL,
IRIS.

MAR VISTA,
CALIFORNIA.
SATURDAY.

Mar Vista

RUCKER'S MESSAGE WAS
AN INVITATION TO A PARTY. NO
OTHER DETAILS WERE INCLUDED.

THIS WASN'T
QUITE WHAT I HAD
IN MIND...

C'MON, MA--
LET ME CLEAR THE
DISHES. IT'S THE
LEAST I COULD
DO ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY!

NEVER MIND
THAT, DEAR. I
STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
I HAVEN'T EVEN MET
YOUR GIRLFRIEND
BEFORE.

I'M NOT SURE
IF TWO DATES
QUALIFIES AS
"GIRLFRIEND"
STATUS...

THANK YOU FOR
THE DELICIOUS
DINNER, MRS.
RUCKER.

IT WAS MY
PLEASURE! MAYBE
NEXT TIME YOUR
WHOLE FAMILY CAN
COME OVER!

PLEASE EXCUSE
MY MA. SHE'S NOT USED
TO SEEING ME WITH
ANYONE... WELL,
MEANINGFUL.

OH, SHE WAS
WONDERFUL. I'M
JUST SORRY I NEED
TO LEAVE SO
SOON BUT--

NO WORRIES.
I APPRECIATE YOU
MAKING TIME FOR ME.
I'M HOPING WE CAN
EVEN MAKE IT TO
DATE NUMBER
THREE!

ME TOO.

IRIS, I--

TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #4



Vol. 1

#4

OF 6
COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A FIRE'S





TITAN
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VOL. 1

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OF 6
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EXECUTIVE
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IRIS





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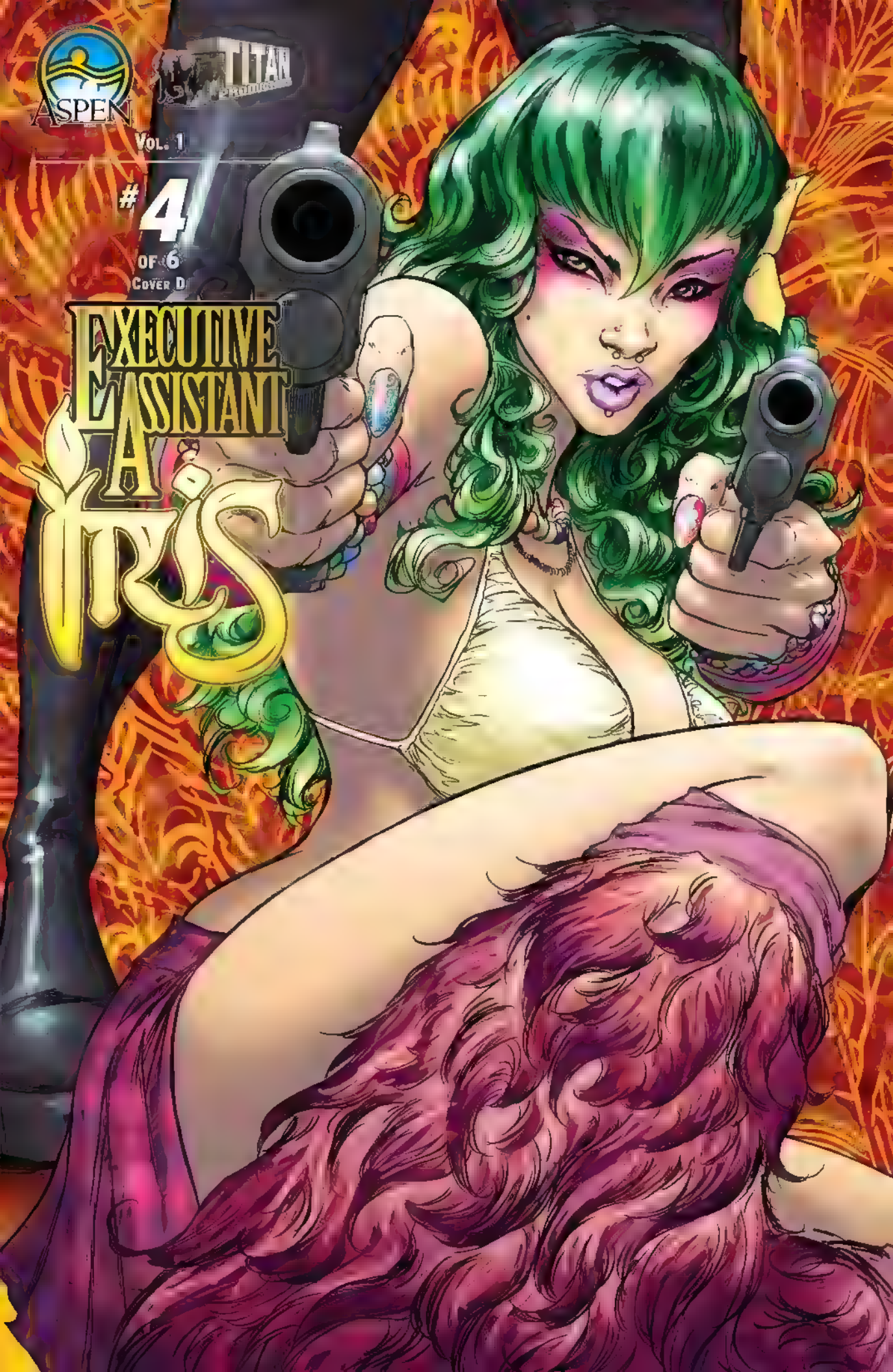
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OF 6
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EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

KRIS



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸢尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE FOUR]



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TUESDAY, 5 P.M.
WUHAN, CHINA.

I'VE BEEN DISPATCHED BY
MY EMPLOYER TO LOCATE
AND TERMINATE SHAO
WU HONG LI...

...THE MAN I ONCE
CALLED FATHER.

AS HE'S STILL THE
HEAD OF THE ACADEMY,
THE LOCATING PART
WAS SIMPLE...

...BUT FOR THE LATTER,
THINGS WERE A BIT MORE
PROBLEMATIC.

SINCE MY DEPARTURE,
THE ACADEMY HAS MOVED
TO A MORE SECURE
LOCATION, REQUIRING ME
TO CALL UPON THE AID OF
AN ASSOCIATE.

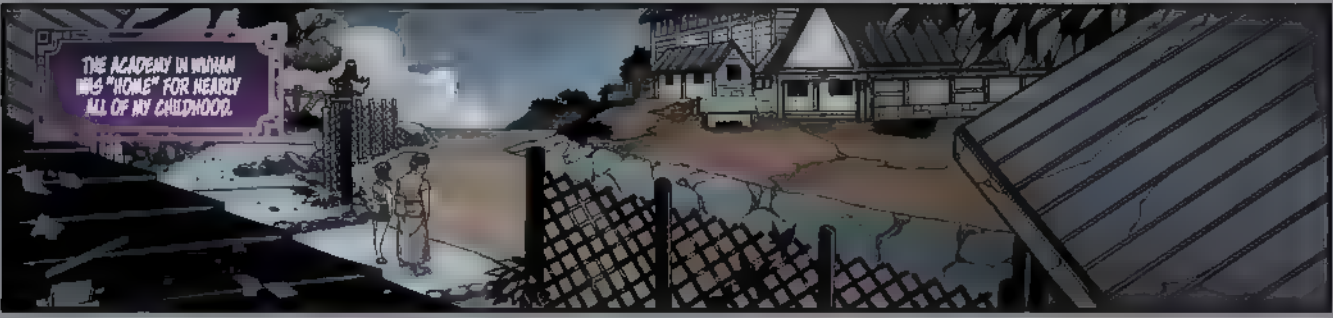
NICE VIEW,
HUH?

FUNNY. I NEVER
SAW YOU AS THE
SIGHTSEEING
TYPE.

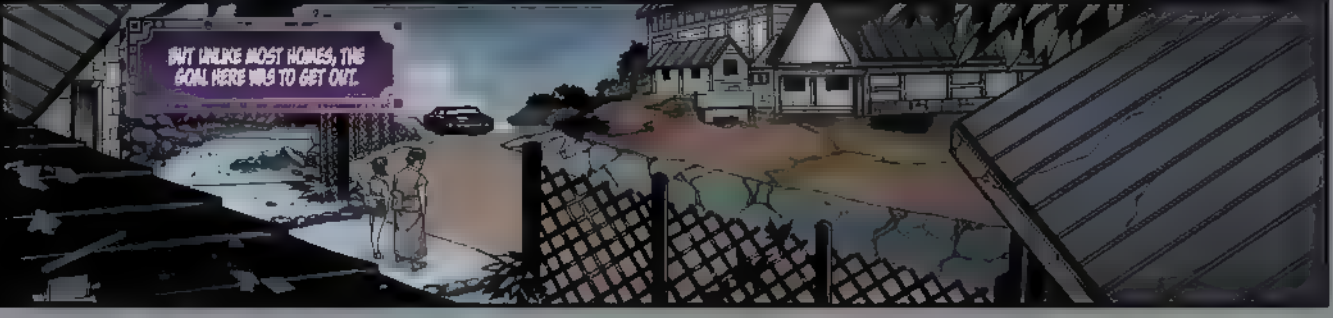
LILY...

...WERE YOU
ABLE TO ASSEMBLE
THE TEAM AS WE
DISCUSSED?

YOU TELL
ME.



THE ACADEMY IN WUHAN WAS "HOME" FOR NEARLY ALL OF MY CHILDHOOD.



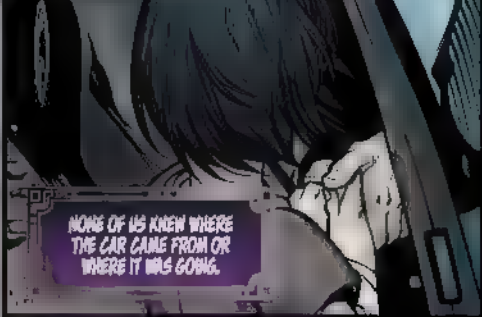
BUT UNLIKE MOST HOMES, THE GOAL HERE WAS TO GET OUT.



PERIODICALLY, THE CAR WOULD ARRIVE...



...TO TAKE ONE OF US AWAY.

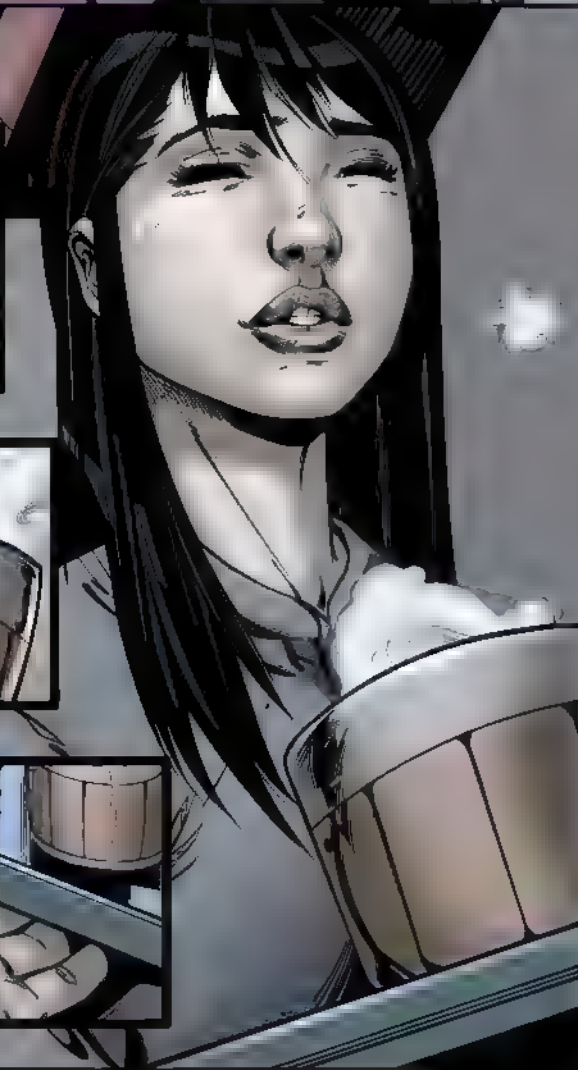
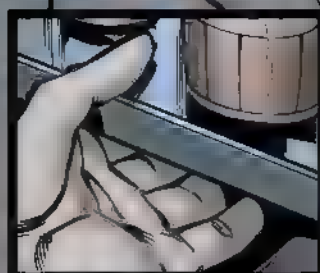


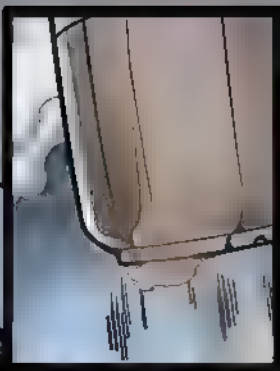
NONE OF US KNEW WHERE THE CAR CAME FROM OR WHERE IT WAS GOING.



ALL WE KNEW WAS THAT IT MUST'VE BEEN A BETTER PLACE THAN HERE.

YOU MUST FOCUS, VIOLET, OR ELSE YOU SHALL FAIL THIS TRIAL.

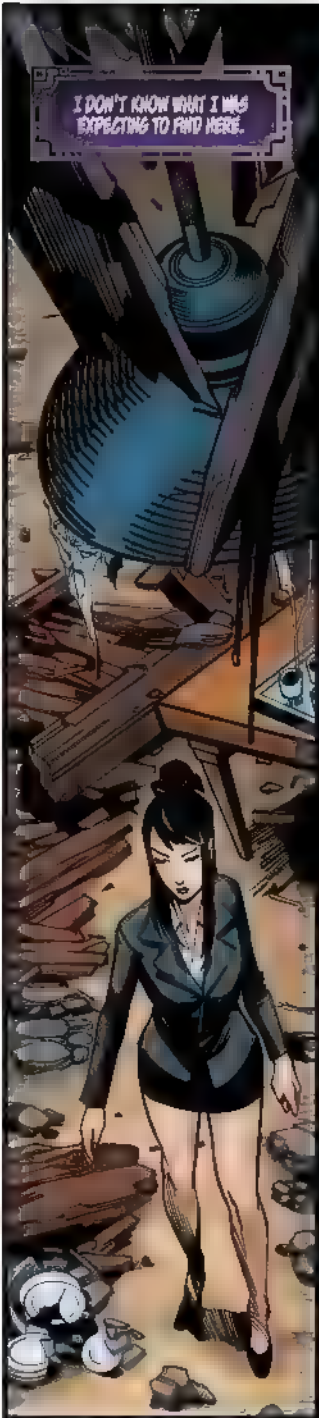






I KNOW THE INSTRUCTORS
AND STUDENTS HAVE LONG
SINCE DEPARTED, BUT I
STILL NEEDED TO RETURN...

...TO SEE IT ONCE MORE.



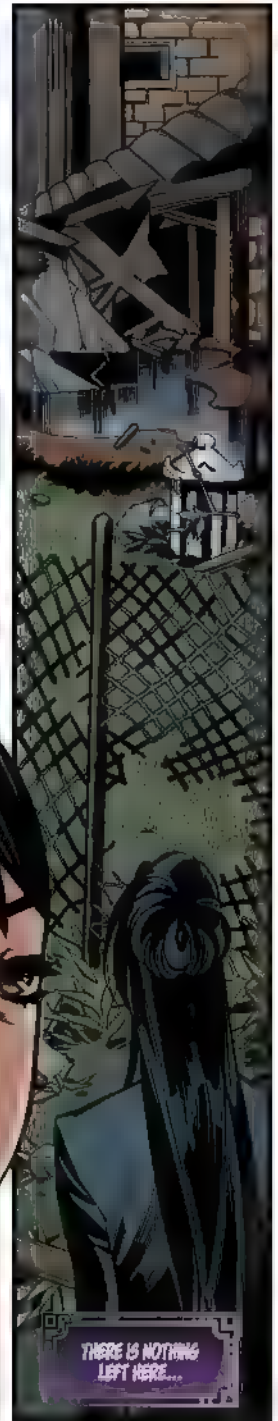
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS
EXPECTING TO FIND HERE.



SOME RELIC OF MY
PAST LIFE, PERHAPS.



...I WAS WRONG.



THERE IS NOTHING
LEFT HERE...

BUT MEMORIES.

LOOK, IRIS. IT'S ANOTHER ONE! I WONDER WHO THE LUCKY GIRL IS THIS TIME.

I WISH IT WAS COMING FOR ME.

FAT CHANCE.

DON'T WORRY VIOLET. THERE'S STILL TIME. YOU'LL MAKE IT.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, IRIS. YOU'RE PERFECT.

ATTENTION PLEASE. ALL B-LEVEL STUDENTS MUST REPORT TO THE COURTYARD FOR LINE-UP.

NO-- NOT NOW! IT'S TOO SOON!

EVERYTHING'LL BE FINE. JUST COME ON!

WE'D HEARD THE OLDER GIRLS TALK ABOUT THE LINE-UP BUT HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED ONE OURSELVES.

AND WHEN I SAW THAT SHAMU HIMSELF WAS PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS, MY HEART LEAPT.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WONDERED IF THIS COULD BE MY TURN TO GO.



I KNEW THAT I WAS ALREADY
CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FINEST
COMBATANTS AT THE SCHOOL...

...AND UNLIKE VIOLET, I
HAD NO TROUBLE WITH
ANY OF THE CLASSES.



THIS ONE HAS
BEEN WITH US SINCE
SHE WAS AN INFANT.
SHE'S VERY HEALTHY.
VERY CLEAN. DON'T
YOU AGREE,
MR. TAN?

A BIT THIN,
BUT SHE'LL
DO.



VERY
GOOD. MS.
FONG?

NOTED,
SIR. JASMINE,
PLEASE EXIT
THE LINE.



JASMINE WAS TWO
YEARS OLDER
THAN VIOLET
AND MYSELF.

AND
THIS YOUNG
LADY?

VIOLET,
SIR. A FINE
CANDIDATE
FOR MR.
TAN.

AGREED.

EXCELLENT.

NO... WAIT... I
DON'T WANT TO
GO ANYMORE...



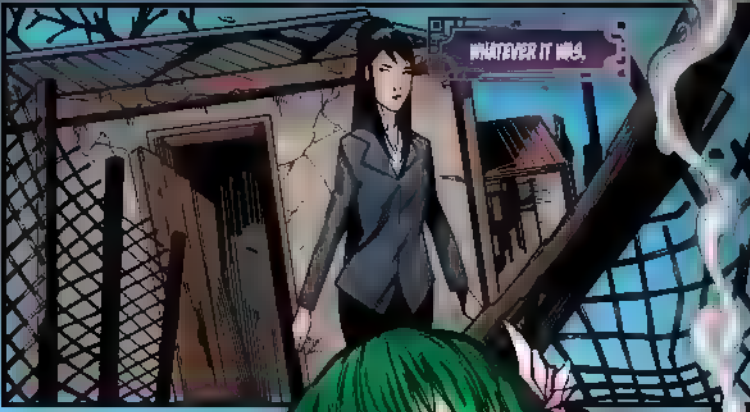
VIOLET,
JASMINE,
PLEASE
ACCOMPANY
MISTER TAN TO
THE EAST
CAMPUS.

...PLEASE...
NOT YET... I
CAN IMPROVE, I
PROMISE! I--

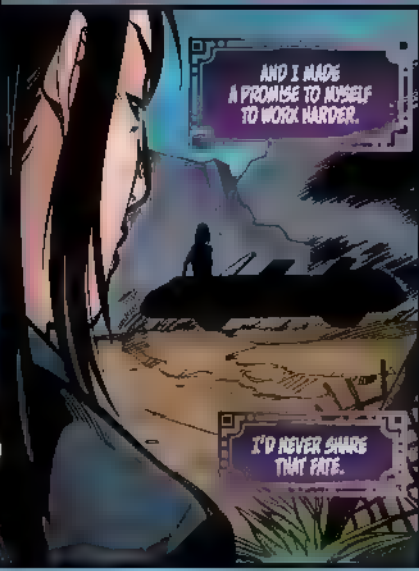
I DIDN'T SAY
A WORD.



I CONVINCED MYSELF
THAT SHE WAS BETTER OFF
IN THE EAST CAMPUS.



WHATEVER IT WAS.



AND I MADE
A PROMISE TO MYSELF
TO WORK HARDER.


ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER
ASKED HER, I DON'T
THINK LILY COULD SAY
THE SAME.

HOW WAS
YOUR LITTLE TRIP
DOWN MEMORY
LANE, IRIS?




TELL ME
ABOUT THE NEW
ACADEMY.

I THOUGHT
YOU'D NEVER
ASK...




AS YOU KNOW,
THE SCHOOL WAS SO
SUCCESSFUL AT CHURNING
OUT EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS
THAT THEY DECIDED TO
EXPAND.

"WITH INVESTMENTS
FROM THE GOVERNMENT,
DEAR OLD DAD MOVED THE
SCHOOL INTO A STATE
FACILITY-- COMPLETE WITH
MILITARY GUARDS



"OBVIOUSLY A
FRONTAL ASSAULT
IS OUT OF THE
QUESTION...

"...SO WHILE YOU
ENTER THROUGH A
LESS SECURE SPOT, I
WILL PROVIDE FOR A
DISTRACTION."



<HELP!!!
SOMEBODY
PLEASE!
HELP!*>



<HALT!>

<GASP!>
<HELP-- I WAS
ATTACKED-->



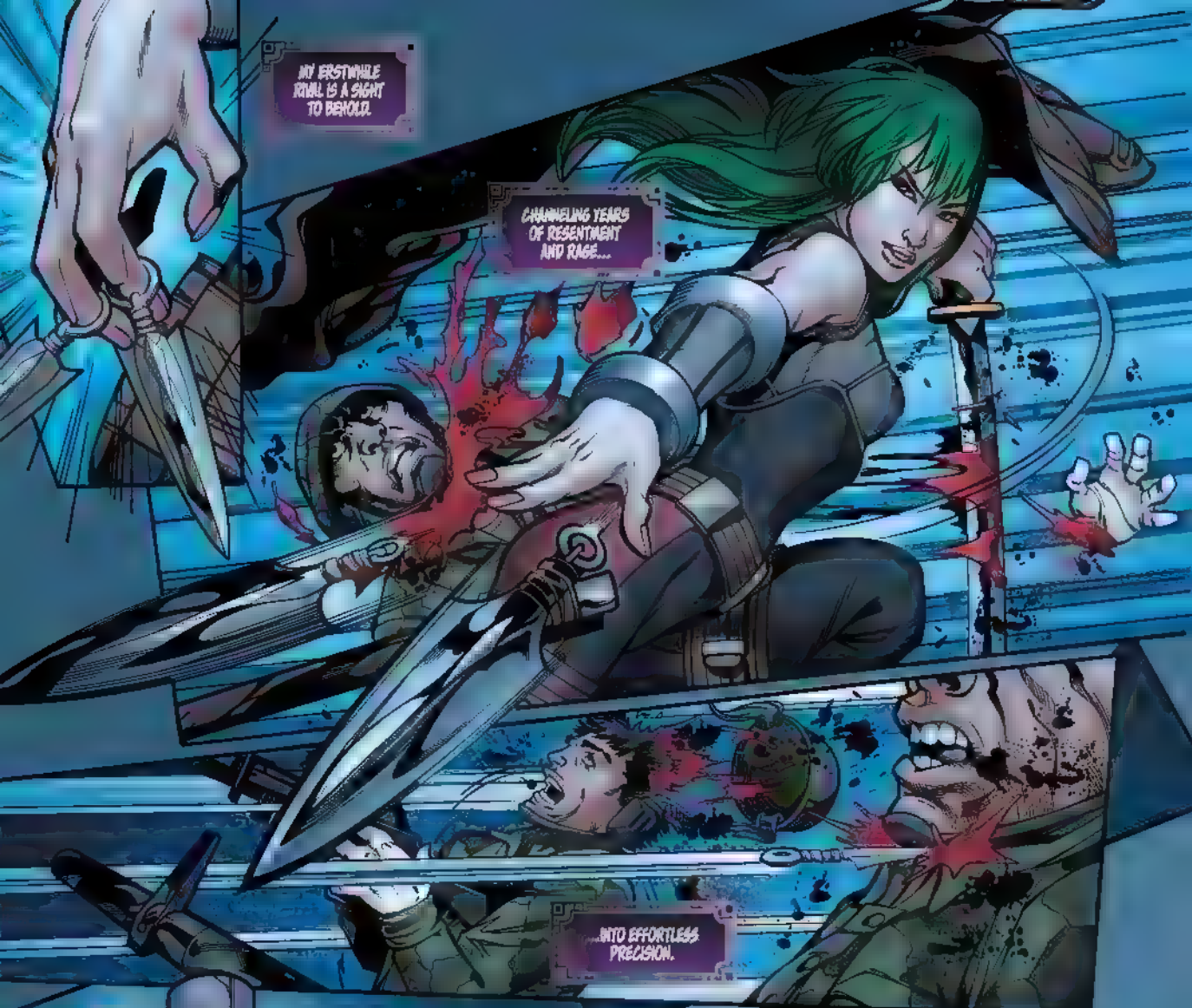
<HE--
HE'S RIGHT
OVER-->



<SILENCE! YOU
ARE TRESPASSING
ON GOVERNMENT
PROPERTY!>

*TRANSLATED
FROM CHINESE
MANDARIN.*






MY FIRSTWILE
RIVAL IS A SIGHT
TO BEHOLD.

CHANNELING YEARS
OF REGRETMENT
AND RAGE...

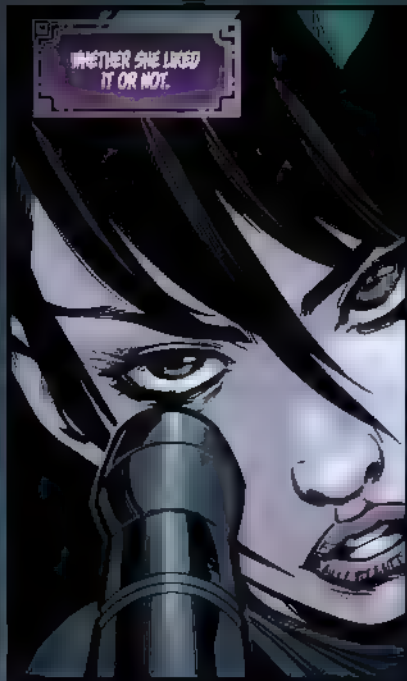
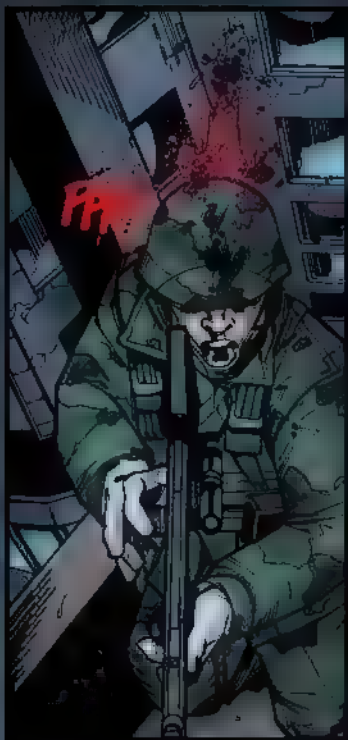
...INTO EFFORTLESS
PRECISION.



I KNEW THAT I WOULD NEED
HELP TO REACH SHILOH, AND
LILY WAS HAPPY TO OBLIGE.

NEEDLESS OF
THE RISK.

PERHAPS EVEN
BECAUSE OF IT.





«AS A
MATTER OF
FACT...»



«...WHY
DON'T YOU
TAKE US
ALL!»



SHE TOLD ME IT WOULD BE NO
PROBLEM AT ALL TO ENLIST THE AID
OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS...
UNITED IN PURPOSE...



...AND HE CONTINUES TO DO IT TO THIS DAY.

NOW HE CAN BEAR WITNESS TO THE FRONT OF HIS LABOR...

DAMN, NOT YOU TOO.



...AS HIS NEW STUDENTS ARE DISPATCHED
TO TAKE CARE OF HIS "REJECTS..."

...OR SO HE
THINKS.

GIRLS, BEFORE
YOU DO SOMETHING
YOU'RE GONNA
REGRET LET ME TELL
YOU A LITTLE
STORY...

NEARBY...

NOW, WHILE EVERYONE
IS OCCUPIED...

...IT'S TIME TO
FINISH THE JOB.



ANOTHER TIME.

IT HAD BEEN SEVERAL
WEEKS SINCE THE LAST
TIME I'D SEEN VIOLET
IN THE COURTYARD.

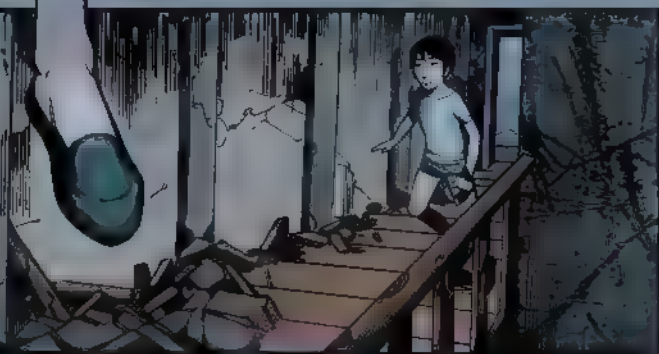
EVERY NIGHT SINCE,
MY SLEEP WAS FITFUL,
INTERRUPTED.


I WONDERED IF THERE WAS
MORE I COULD'VE DONE...
MORE I SHOULD'VE DONE.

AND I NEEDED TO
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
OVER THERE.

ON THE OTHER SIDE.

IN THE EAST CAMPUS.

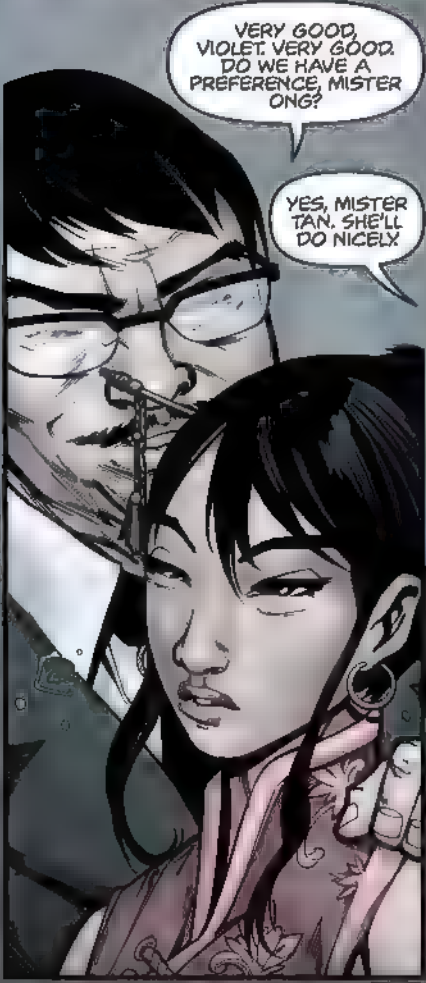




OUR COURTESANS
ARE ALL VERY CLEAN, AND
MOST HAVE EVEN BEEN
TRAINED IN ETIQUETTE, SO
THEY MAKE EXCELLENT
SERVANTS.

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
VIOLET?

MMMM...
YES, UNCLE. I
EXCELLED... IN ALL
OF MY CLASSES.



VERY GOOD,
VIOLET. VERY GOOD.
DO WE HAVE A
PREFERENCE, MISTER
ONG?

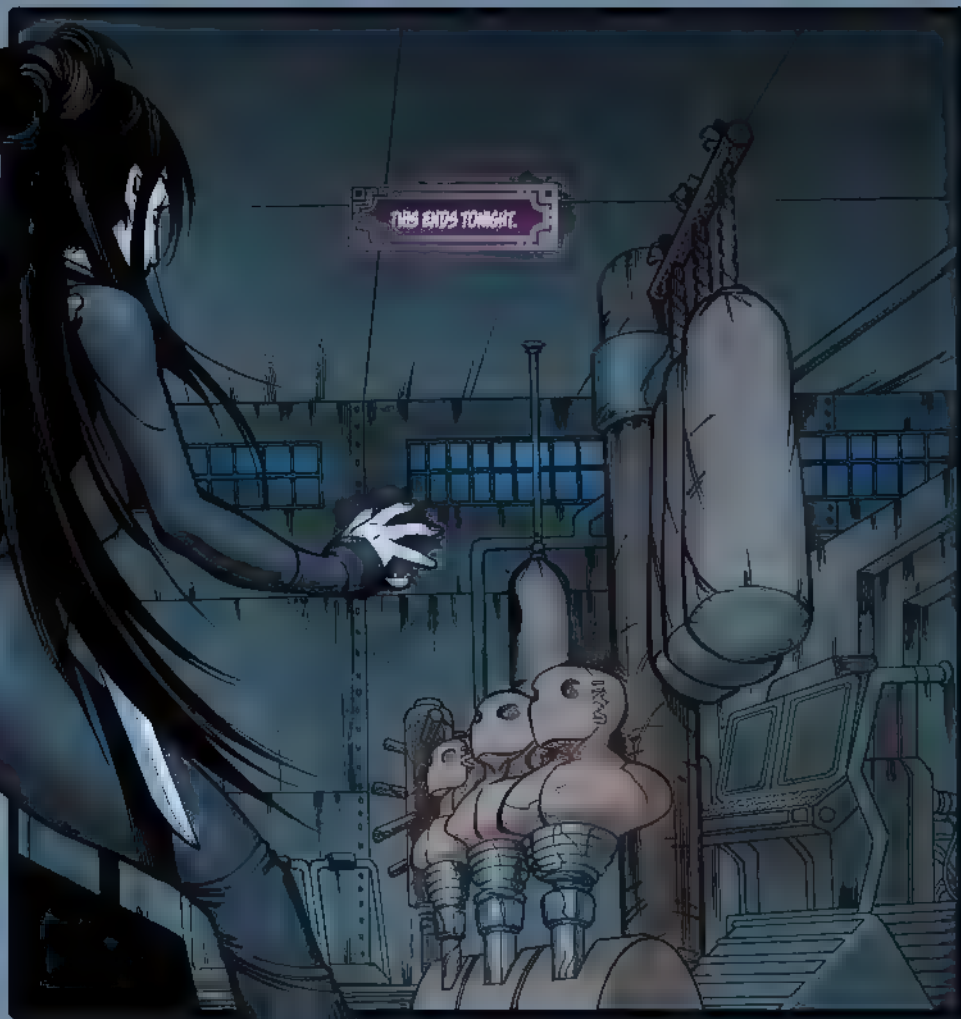
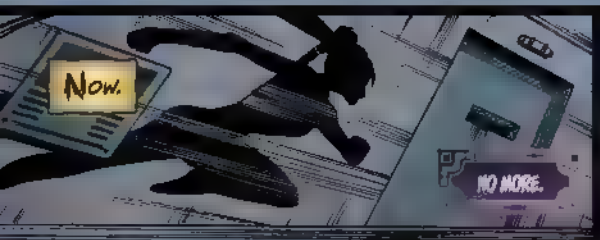
YES, MISTER
TAN. SHE'LL
DO NICELY.

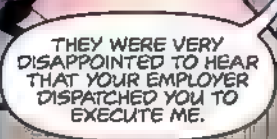
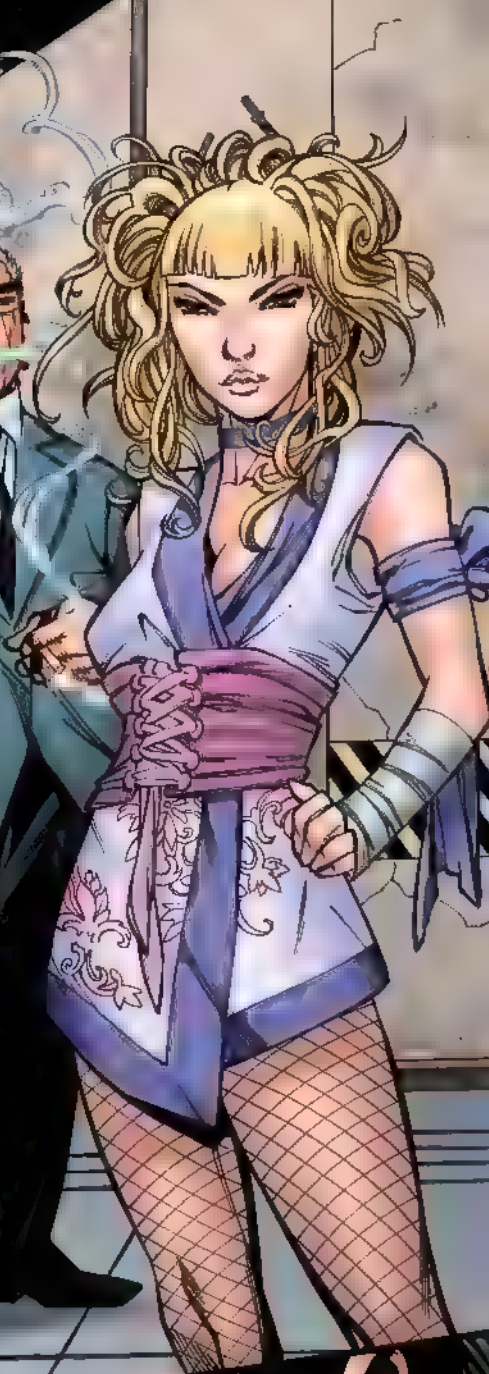
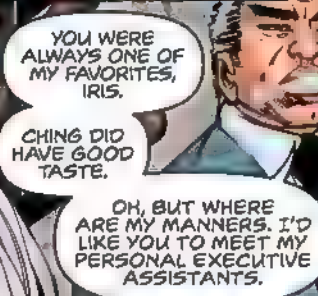
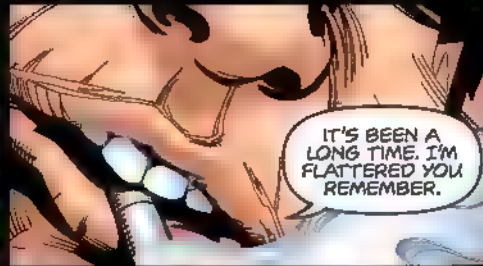


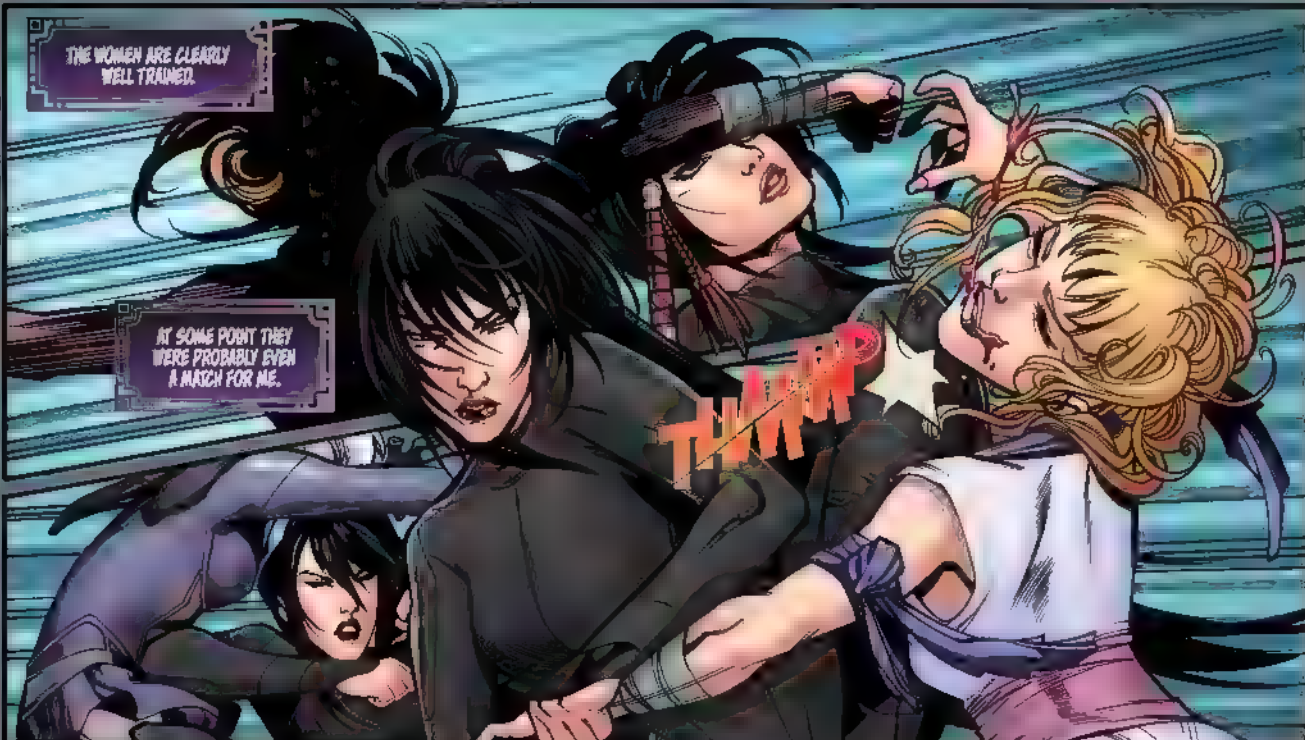
EXCELLENT.
THIS WAY,
VIOLET.



I NEVER SAW
HER AGAIN.







THE WOMEN ARE CLEARLY
WELL TRAINED.

AT SOME POINT THEY
WERE PROBABLY EVEN
A MATCH FOR ME.

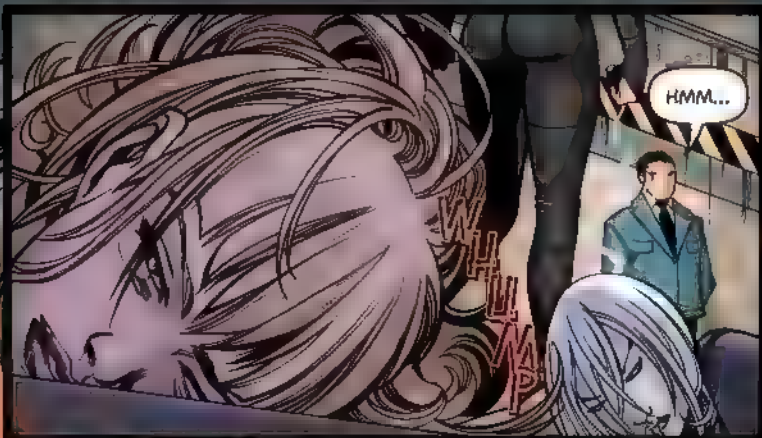
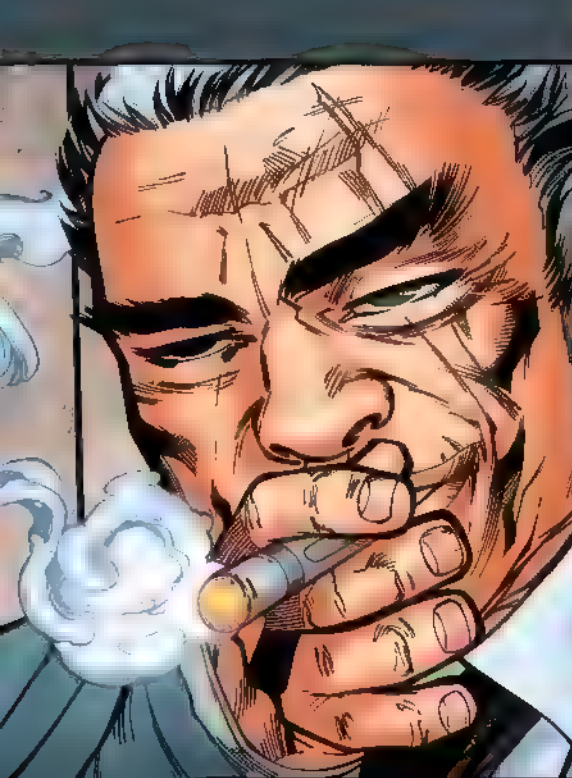
THUMP

RKRKRK

THAT WAS
LONG AGO.



ARE WE
FINISHED YET,
SHUJI?



HMM...

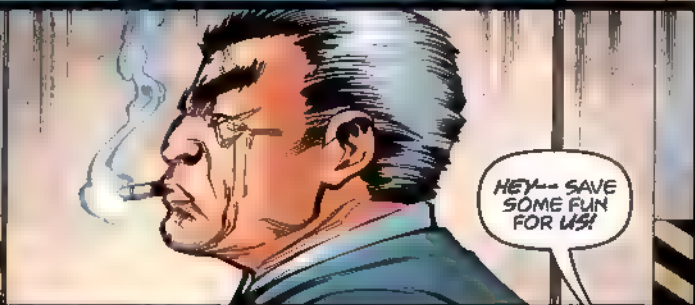
APPARENTLY
SO.

NOW WHAT, IRIS?
AT MY COMMAND,
EVERYBODY UNDER
THIS ROOF WILL BE IN
HERE TO PROTECT ME.
AND THEN WHAT?

I SEE THE LOOK
IN YOUR EYES. YOU
DON'T WANT TO HURT
ALL THESE INNOCENT
GIRLS THAT YOU THINK
I'VE CORRUPTED.



THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ONLY BLOOD
WORTH SPILLING
HERE IS YOURS.



HEY-- SAVE
SOME FUN
FOR US!

TODAY WE PUT AN END TO SHUJI
AND HIS TERRIBLE LEGACY.

AND WITH IT, ALL OF MY
EMPLOYER'S FORMER
PARTNERS HAVE BEEN
DEALT WITH.

IT SHOULD BE A TIME FOR CELEBRATION,
BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT
MY TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING...



TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #5



Vol. 1

#5

OF 6

COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MRS





VOL. 1

#5

OF 6
COVER B

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A KIRI'S





VOL. 1

#5

OF 6
COVER C

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Kris



Executive Assistant: Iris

鸢尾

[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE FIVE]

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Brad Foxhoven_story

David Wohl_script

illustrations Eduardo Francisco

inking assistant Alex Lei

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letters Josh Reed



created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Digital Editors: FRANK MASTROMAURO, VINCE HERNANDEZ Design and Production: JOSH REED, MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 1 Issue 5

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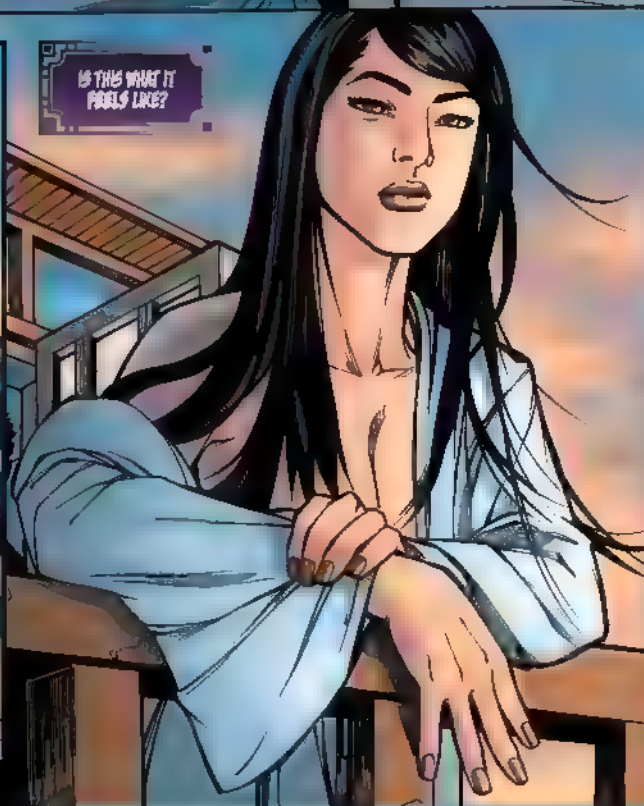
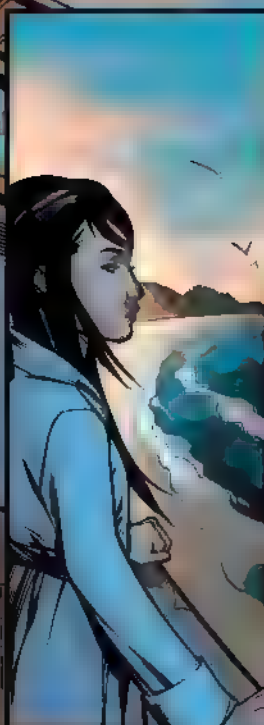
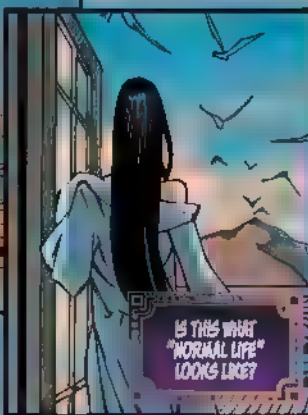
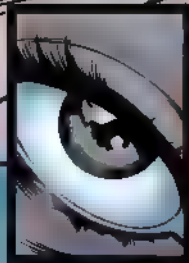
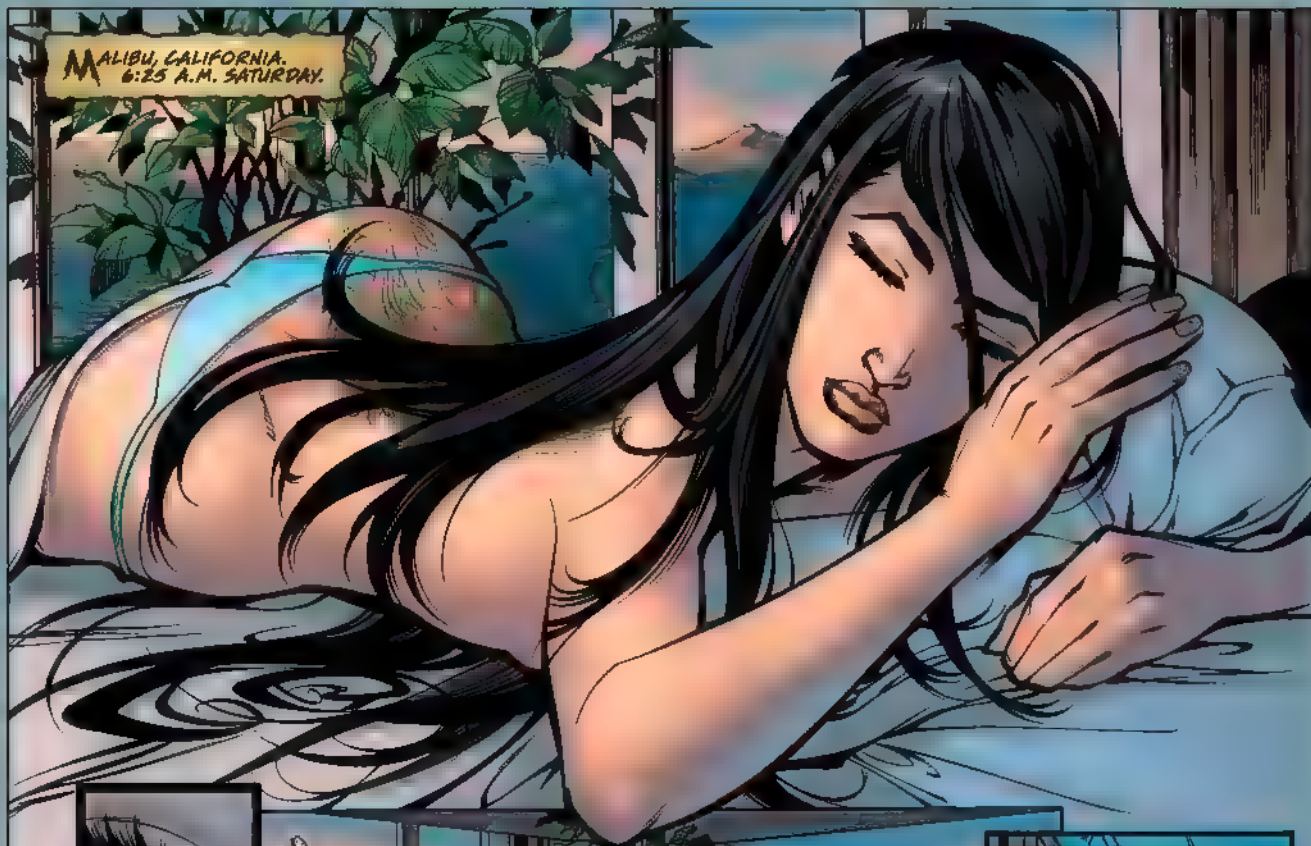
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MALIBU, CALIFORNIA.
6:25 A.M. SATURDAY.





SO I WAS WONDERING, YOU KNOW, NOW THAT YOUR BUSINESS TRIPS ARE OVER...

...WELL I WAS KINDA THINKING ABOUT TAKING A FEW WEEKS OFF IN HAWAII.

THERE'S THIS PLACE ON MAUI THAT I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY COTTAGES RIGHT ON THE BEACH. BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS. WHATTA SAY?

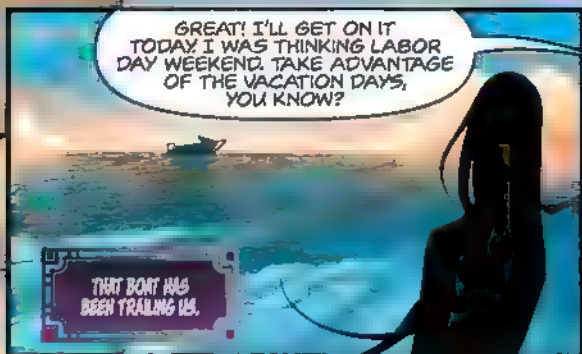


IT SOUNDS GREAT, DENNIS. REALLY--

BUT...

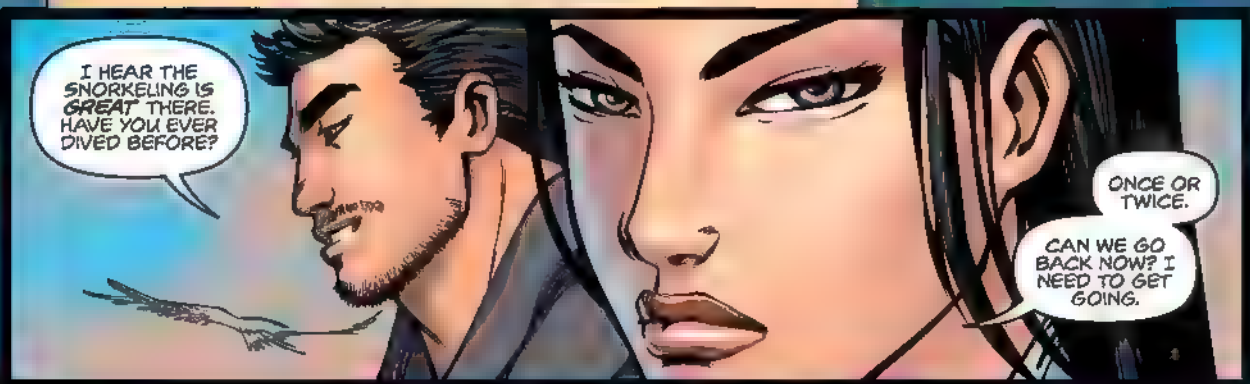


SURE. WHY NOT?



GREAT! I'LL GET ON IT TODAY I WAS THINKING LABOR DAY WEEKEND. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VACATION DAYS, YOU KNOW?

THAT BOAT HAS BEEN TRAILING US.

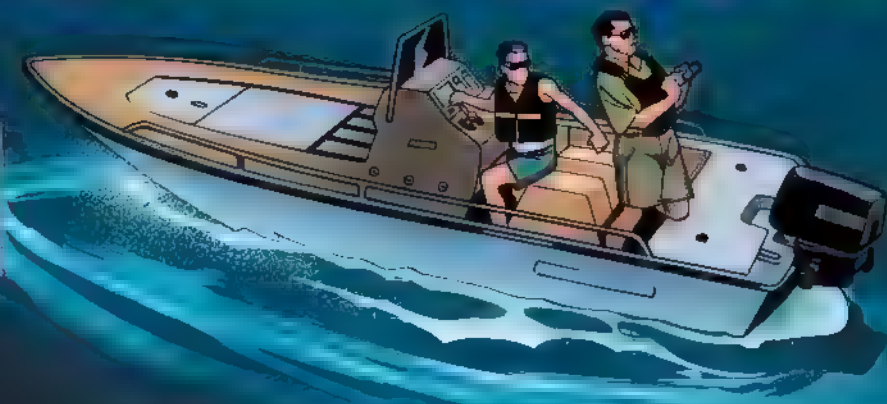


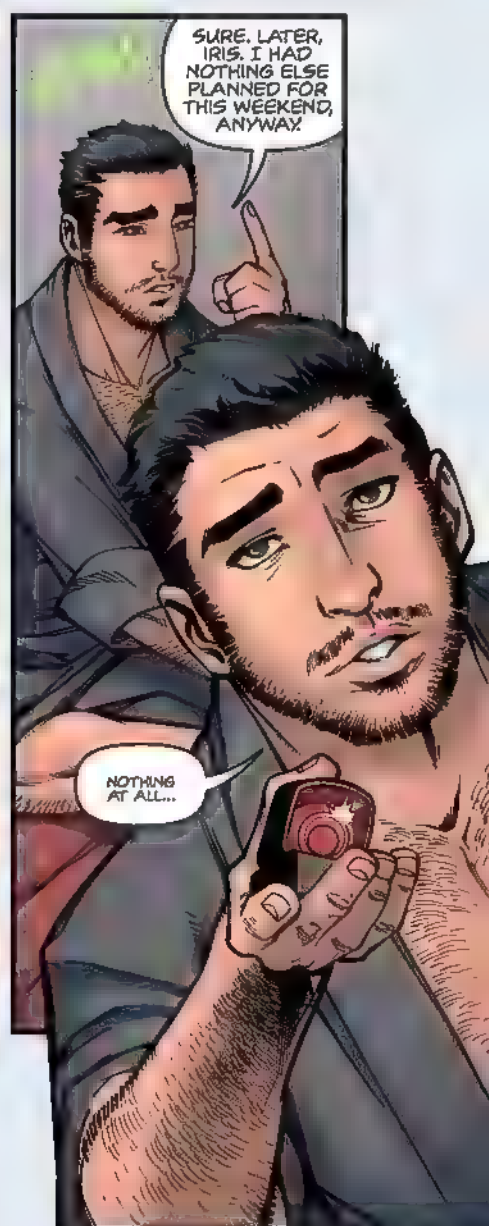
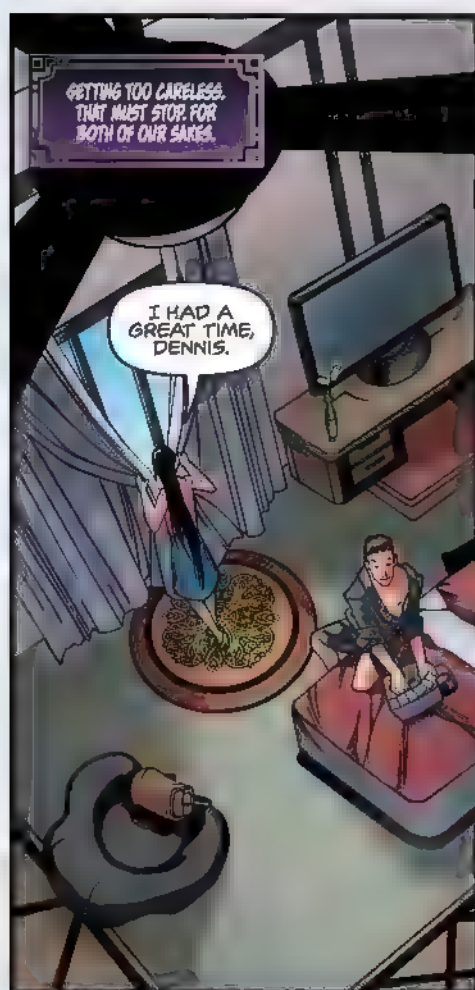
I HEAR THE SNORKELING IS GREAT THERE. HAVE YOU EVER DIVED BEFORE?

ONCE OR TWICE.

CAN WE GO BACK NOW? I NEED TO GET GOING.

DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE, BUT IF THEY WANTED TO KILL US, WE'D BE DEAD ALREADY.







LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
8:25 A.M. MONDAY.



FIRST OF ALL, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING ANOTHER MEETING SO QUICKLY BUT RECENT EVENTS HAVE MADE IT A NECESSITY

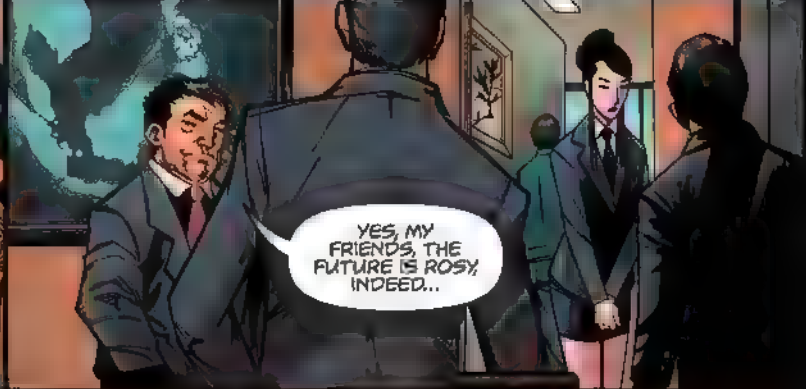
AS YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON MY LIFE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO...

...APPARENTLY BY SEVERAL FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.

YES, I'LL ADMIT THAT I MADE SOME POOR DECISIONS IN MY PAST. I HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH *LESS THAN SAVORY* INDIVIDUALS.

AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEARLY UNSUCCESSFUL, THIS VICIOUS, BRUTAL AND UNPROVOKED ATTACK HAS CAUSED ME MUCH CONSTERNATION.

BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT THOSE DAYS ARE BEHIND ME. BEHIND US. NOW, THERE ARE NEW OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US, IN FINANCE, ENTERTAINMENT, AND EVEN EDUCATION!

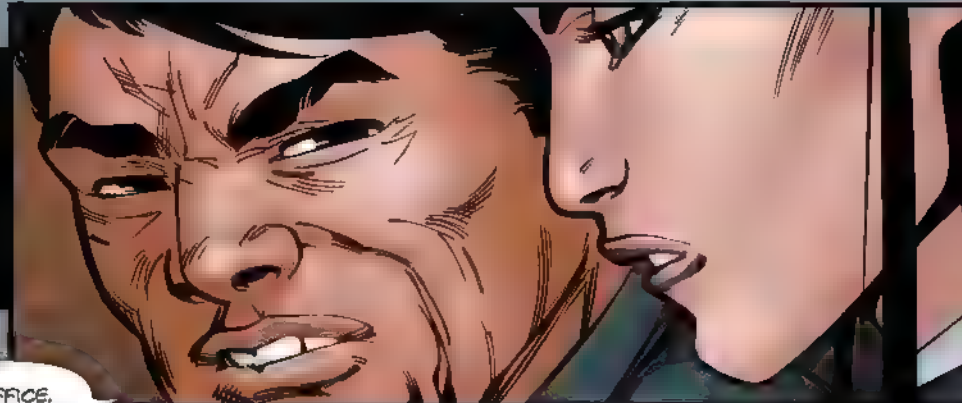
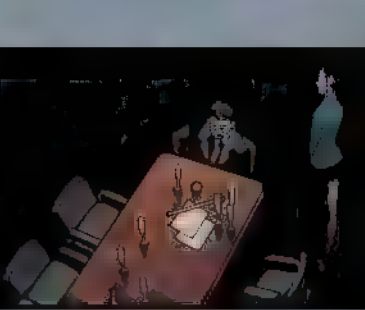


YES, MY FRIENDS, THE FUTURE IS ROSY, INDEED...



...AND THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE LOYAL WILL SURELY BE REWARDED.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



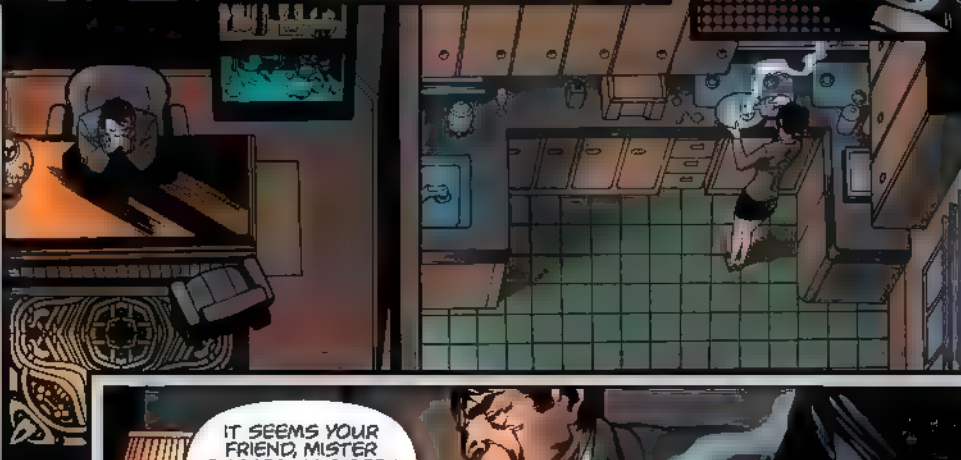
MY OFFICE, IMMEDIATELY



YOU WISHED
TO SEE ME,
SIR?



TEA.



IT SEEMS YOUR
FRIEND, MISTER
RUCKER, HAS BEEN
ASSOCIATING
HIMSELF WITH
QUESTIONABLE
PEOPLE.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
SIR.

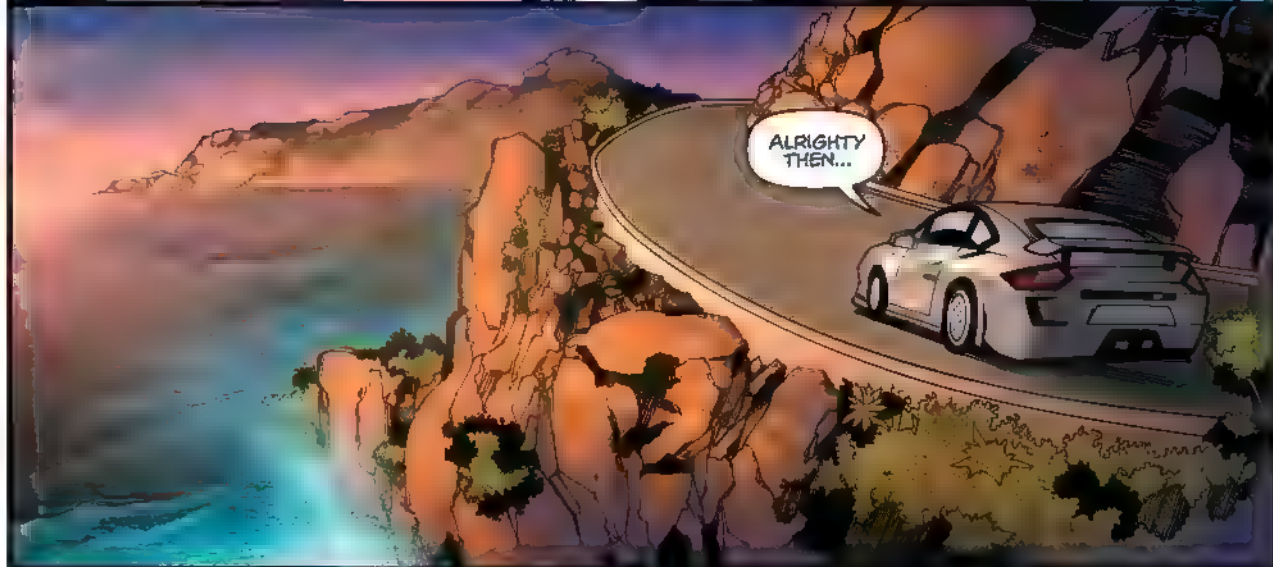
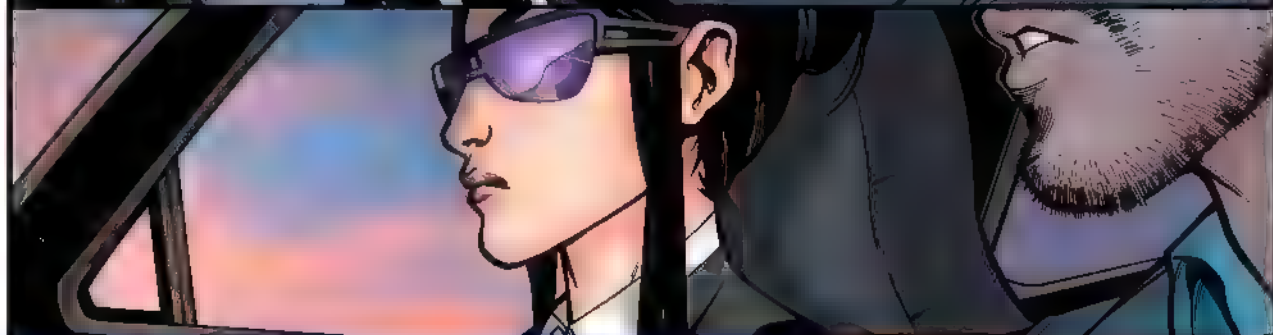
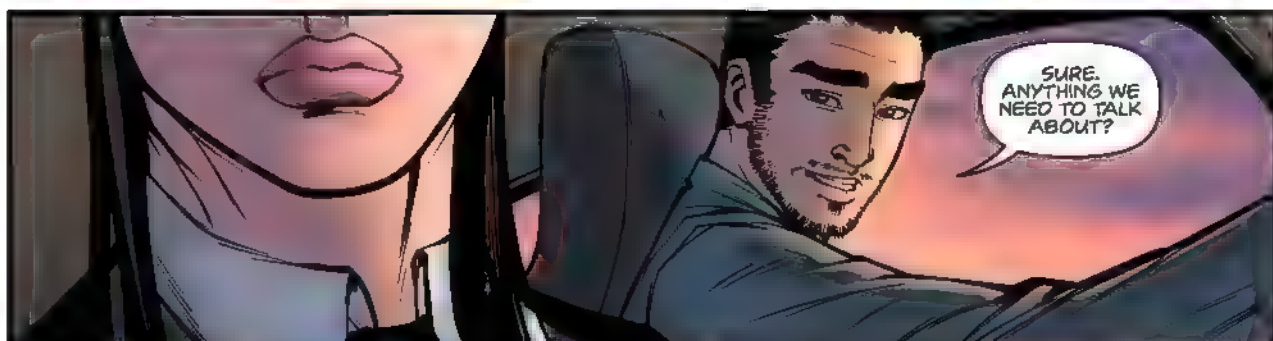
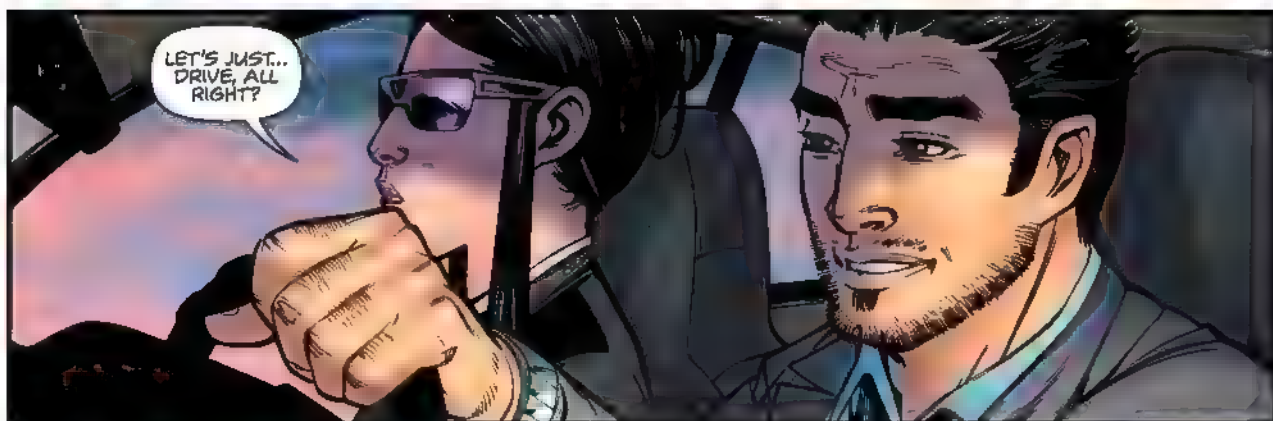


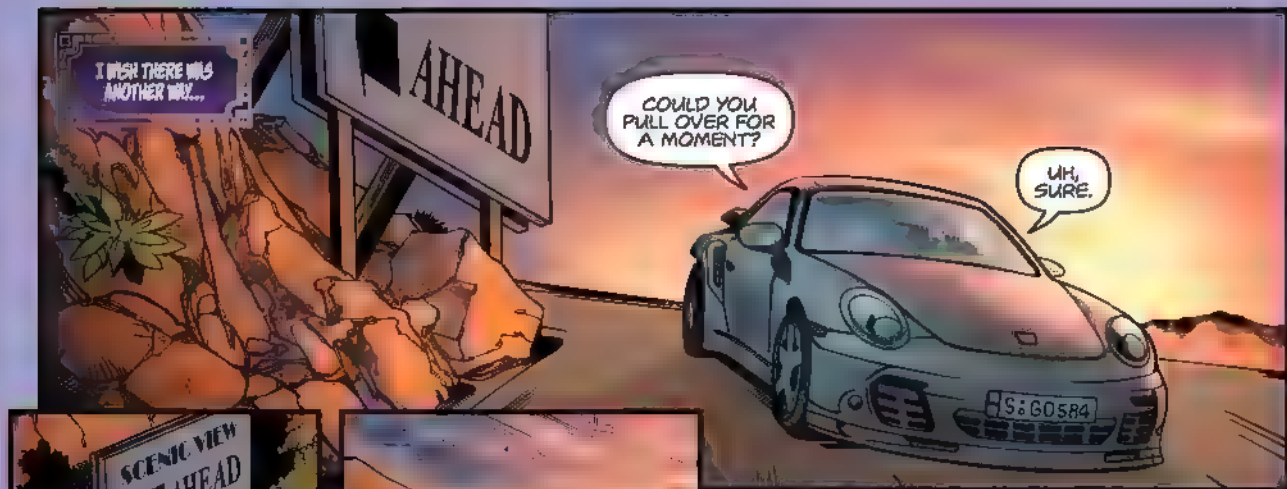
ALLOW ME
TO ENLIGHTEN
YOU.

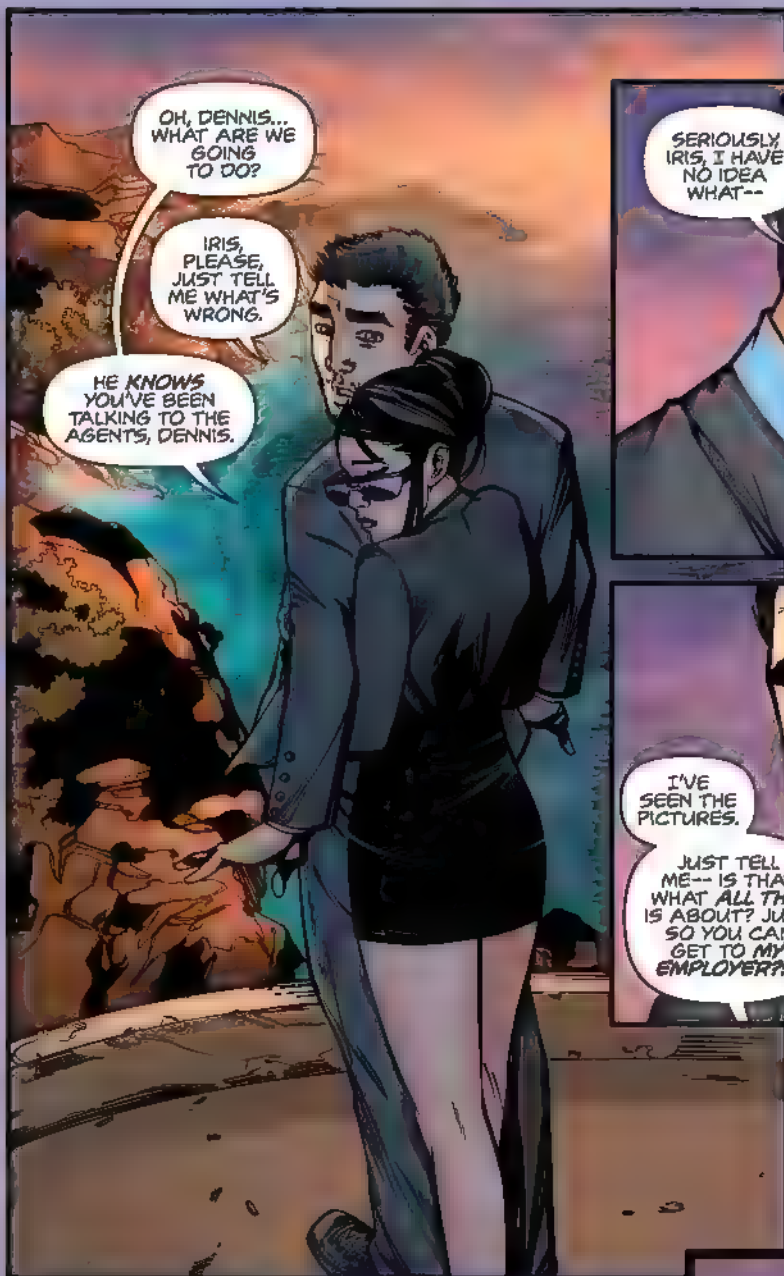
THESE MEN
ARE FEDERAL
AGENTS,
DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE.

NOW WHAT
AN EMPLOYEE
OF MINE BE
AWARE OF
THAT WOULD
BE OF ANY
INTEREST TO
THEM??





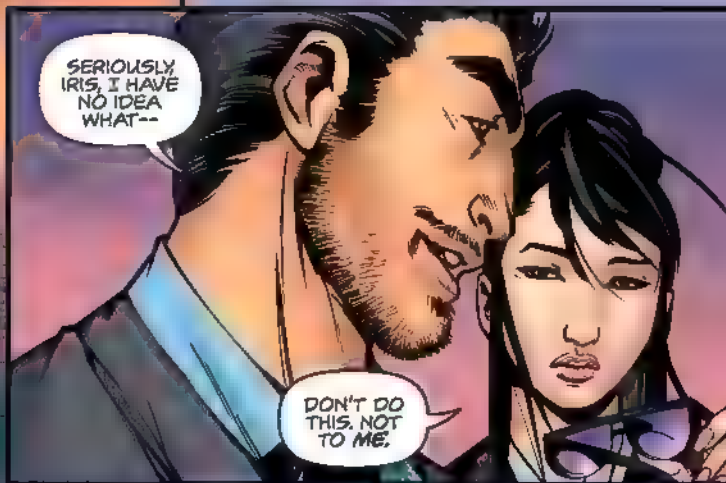




OH, DENNIS...
WHAT ARE WE
GOING
TO DO?

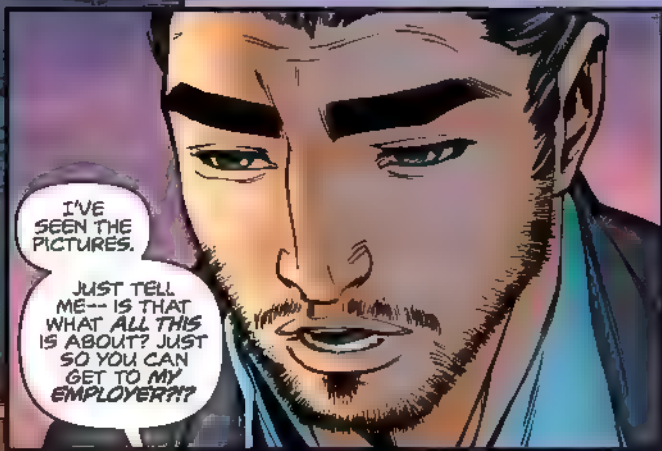
IRIS,
PLEASE,
JUST TELL
ME WHAT'S
WRONG.

HE KNOWS
YOU'VE BEEN
TALKING TO THE
AGENTS, DENNIS.



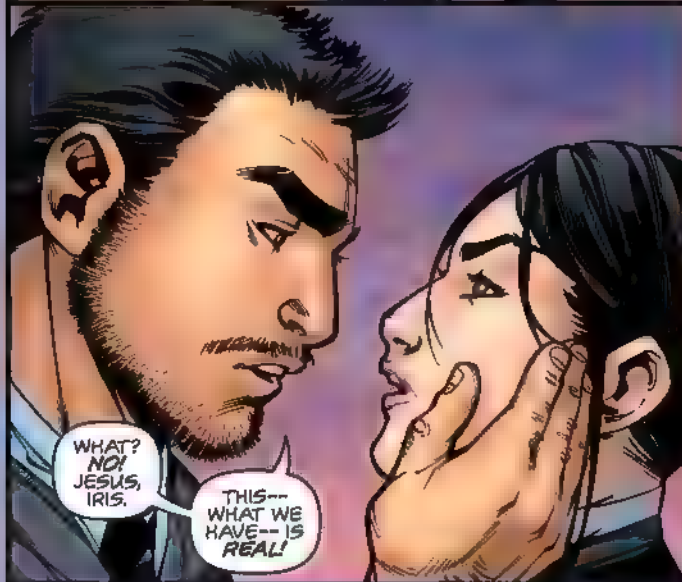
SERIOUSLY,
IRIS, I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT--

DON'T DO
THIS. NOT
TO ME.



I'VE
SEEN THE
PICTURES.

JUST TELL
ME-- IS THAT
WHAT **ALL THIS**
IS ABOUT? JUST
SO YOU CAN
GET TO MY
EMPLOYER??

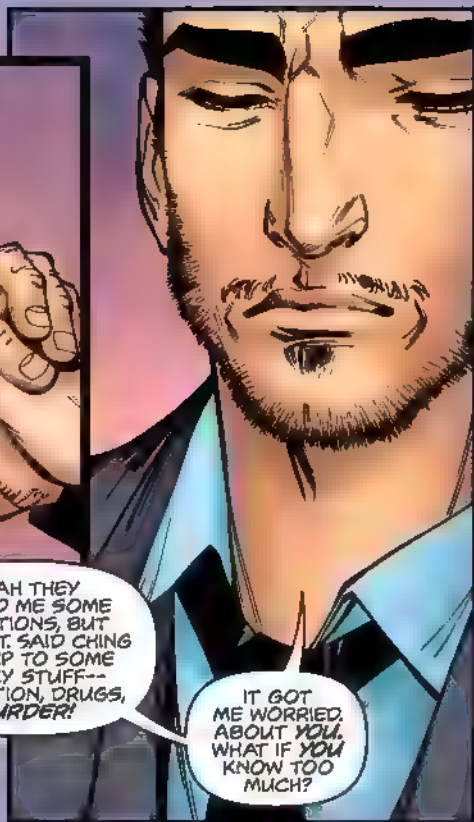


WHAT?
NO!
JESUS,
IRIS.

THIS--
WHAT WE
HAVE-- IS
REAL!



YEAH THEY
ASKED ME SOME
QUESTIONS, BUT
THAT'S IT. SAID CHING
WAS UP TO SOME
CRAZY STUFF--
EXTORTION, DRUGS,
MURDER!



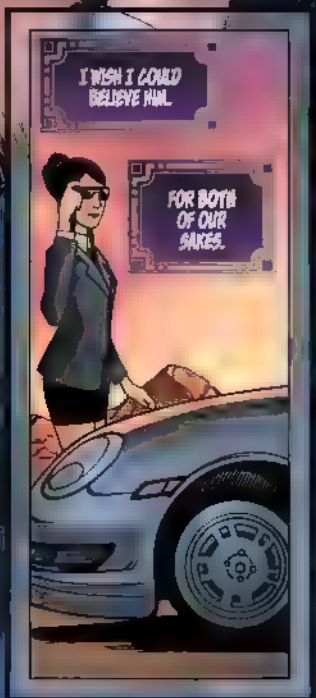
IT GOT
ME WORRIED
ABOUT **YOU**.
WHAT IF **YOU**
KNOW TOO
MUCH?

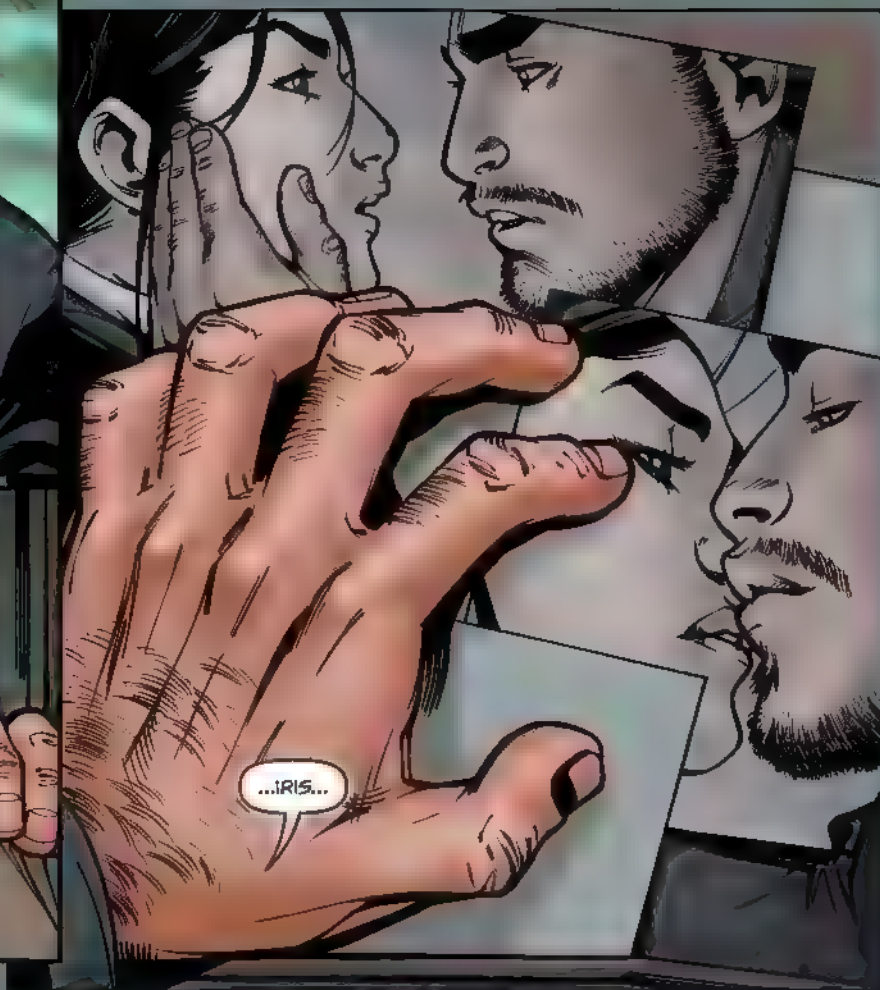


MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO THE--
MMPHLLL--

...FOR BOTH OUR SAKES.

LET'S GO...





MALIBU, CALIFORNIA.
2:10 A.M. TUESDAY.

WHEN DENNIS INVITED ME
OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME,
I ACCEPTED OUT OF
DUTY TO MY EMPLOYER.

MR. CHUNG HOPED I COULD
UNCOVER SOME "DIRT" ON
HIM... DRUG ADDICTION,
DUBIOUS RELATIONSHIPS...
ANYTHING.

SINCE THEN, THE ONLY CHEMICAL
I'VE EVER SEEN HIM INGEST IS
THE OCCASIONAL GLASS OF
WINE... AND ASPIRIN.

THE ONLY
RELATIONSHIP...
HIS MOTHER...
AND ME.

MY HEART TELLS
ME HE'S TELLING
THE TRUTH.

BUT THAT IS
SOMETHING I'VE
BEEN TAUGHT
NEVER TO TRUST.

MY FAITH WON'T
KEEP HIM ALIVE.

WHAT I NEED
ARE FACTS.



THE AGENTS BEGAN CONTACTING
HIM SHORTLY AFTER ALAN HWANG'S
DEATH IN HIS HOTEL ROOM.

RE: CHU, ALAN

The events of
Homicide

IT WAS ME THEY
WERE WORRIED
ABOUT.

THEY WARNED HIM ABOUT
ME-- ABOUT MR. CHING.
TOLD HIM THEY WERE
GATHERING EVIDENCE--

Concerning Iris,
connection to Japan

--THAT MY "BUSINESS TRIPS"
COULD ALL BE CONNECTED TO
MYSTERIOUS DEATHS IN RUSSIA,
FRANCE, JAPAN, CHINA...

...BUT HE-- HE REBUFFED
THEM. DIDN'T BELIEVE A
WORD. TOLD THEM TO
STOP CONTACTING HIM.

HE WAS TELLING
THE TRUTH.



THE ONLY LIES...
WERE MINE.

BUT THAT IS GOING
TO CHANGE.

STILL ASLEEP. GOOD.

I NEED TO SPEAK TO MY EMPLOYER-- TO PROVE DENNIS' INNOCENCE... AND TO BEGIN TO ASSUAGE MY GUILT...

...STARTING WITH MY RESIG--

→GASP←

NO...!

NO!

CHING...

KLUNK

KRSHK

SHAPAP



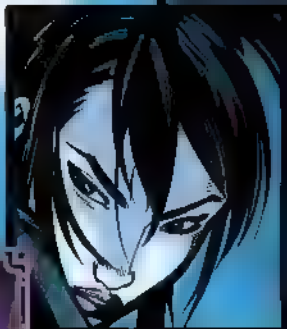
ON THREE--
TWO-- ONE--

KERRASHHHH





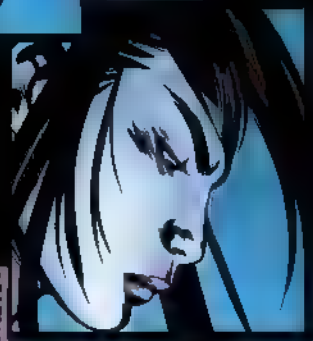
THOSE MEN DIDN'T
PUT A BULLET IN
HIS FOREHEAD.



BUT THEY
CERTAINLY
THINK I DID.

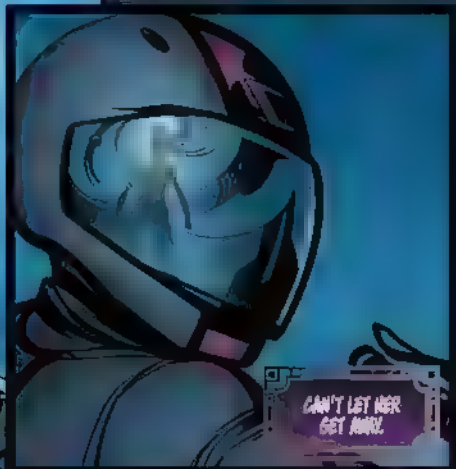


THAT SHOT
WAS TAKEN BY A
PROFESSIONAL.



AND HE CAN'T
BE FAR.

OR SHE.



CAN'T LET HER
GET AWAY.

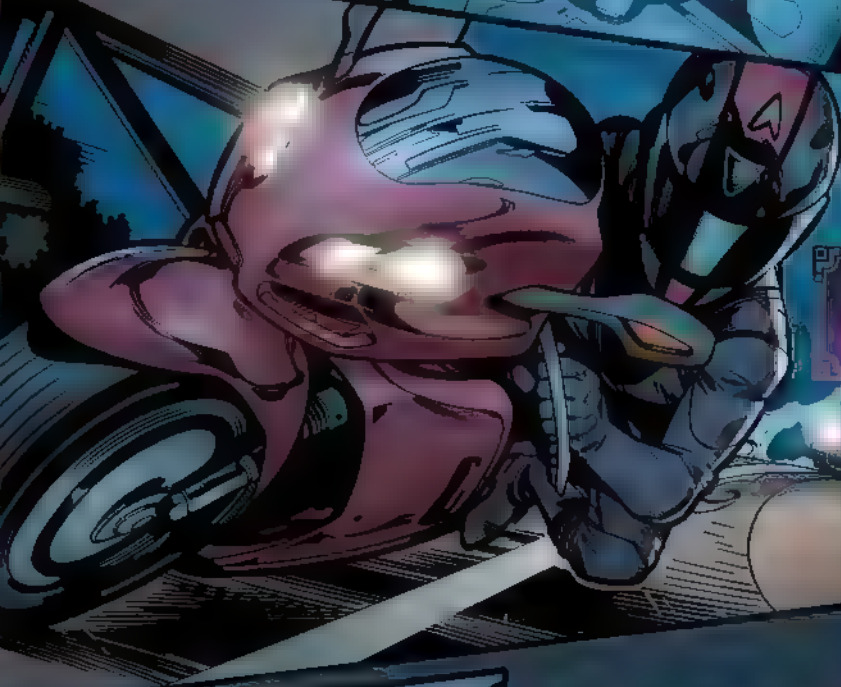
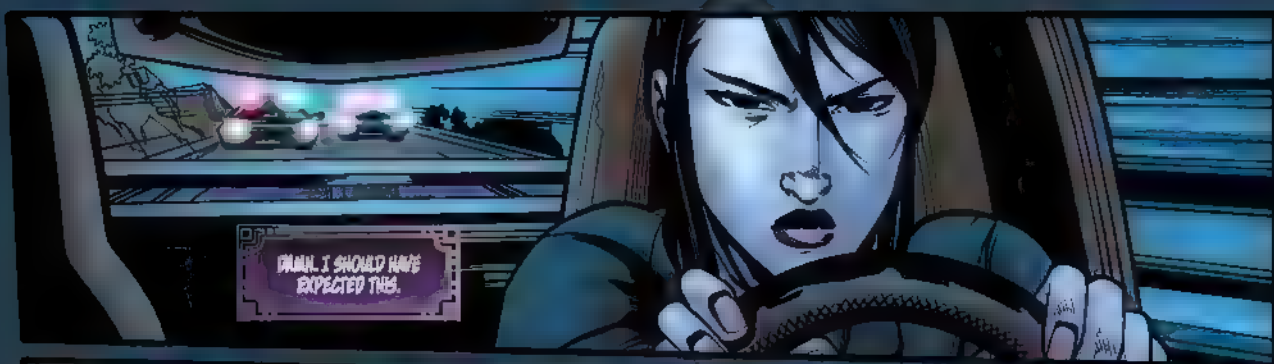


HOLD IT
RIGHT---

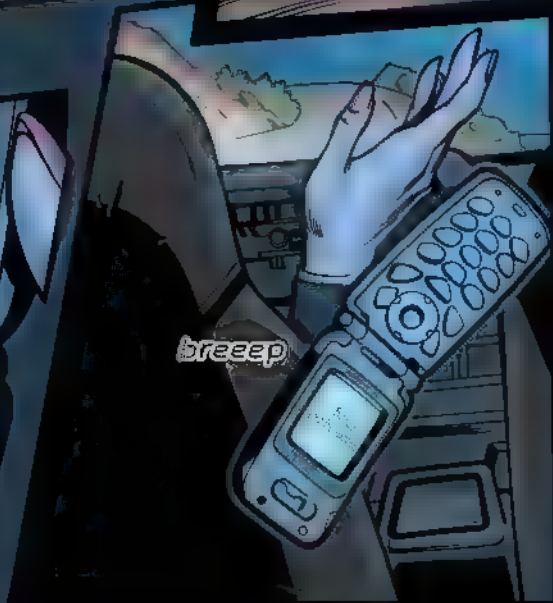
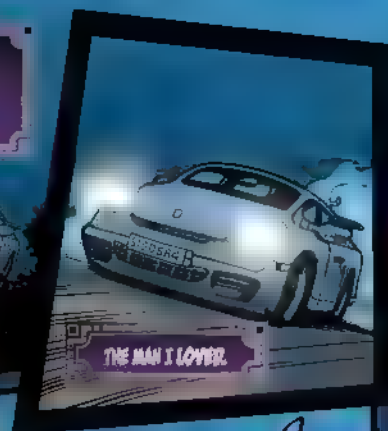


--THERE?!





AND MY CHILDISH THINKING GOT A MAN KILLED.



I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET
THE STAIN OF HIS BLOOD
OFF OF MY HANDS.

BUT I WILL HONOR
HIS MEMORY WITH
JUSTICE.

SHUT

IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOW.

THIS WOMAN WAS
MERELY FOLLOWING
ORDERS.

SOMETHING I'VE DONE
WITHOUT QUESTION...

...NOT
REMEMBER...

...FOR MORE TIMES THAN
I'D CARE TO REMEMBER.

BUT NOW I... I...

AM NOT
SLOWING
DOWN!

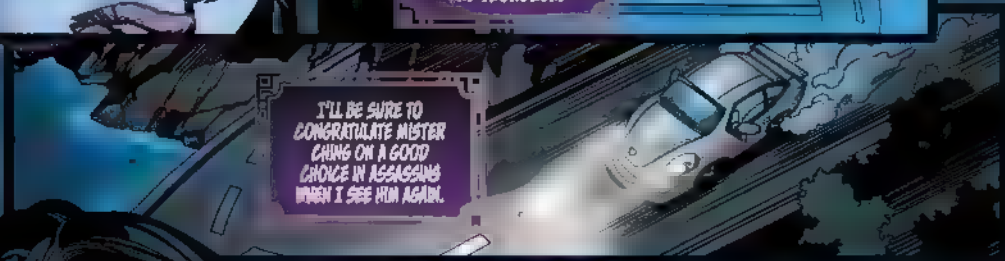
SHE CUT THE
LINE TO THE
BRAKES...



...AND THE HAND
BRAKE AS WELL.

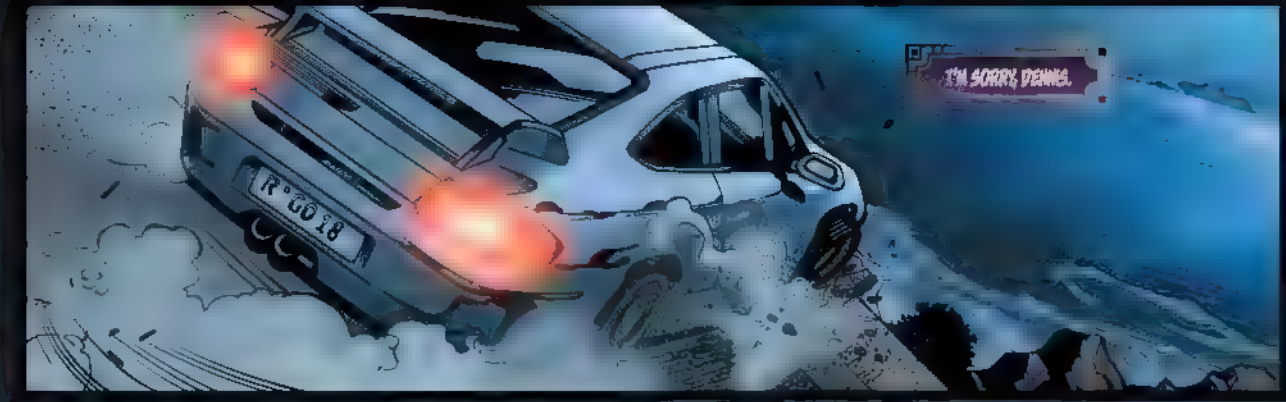
SHE'S WELL TRAINED—
AND THOROUGH.

I'LL BE SURE TO
CONGRATULATE MISTER
CHUNG ON A GOOD
CHOICE IN ASSASSINS
WHEN I SEE HIM AGAIN.

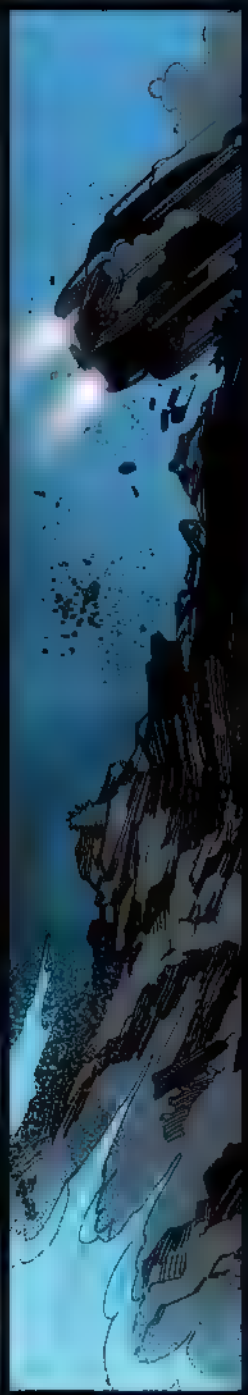


OR NOT.





I'M SORRY, DENNIS.



TO BE CONCLUDED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:
IRIS #6



Vol. 1

#6

OF 6

COVER A

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Kris





Vol. 1

#6

OF 6
COVER B

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Kris





VOL. 1

#6

OF 6
COVER C

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IRIS



Executive Assistant: Iris

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[VOLUME ONE: ISSUE SIX]

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Brad Foxhoven_story

illustrations Eduardo Francisco

inking assistant Alex Lei

colors John Starr

David Wohl_script

letters Josh Reed



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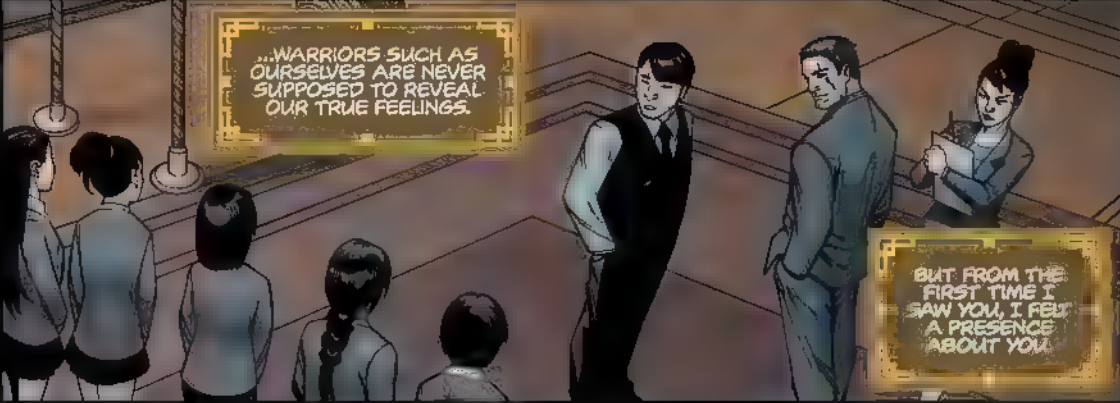
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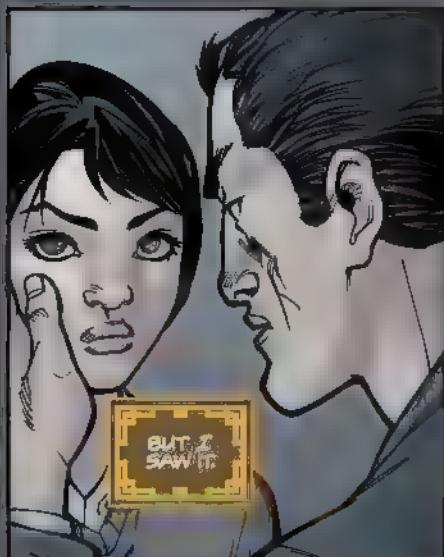
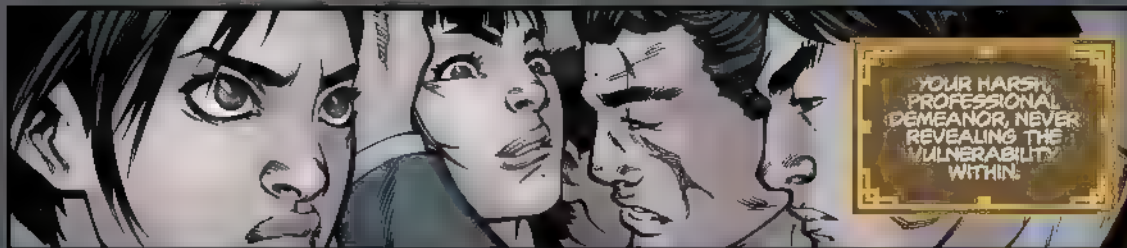
TO BE HONEST THE
FIRST TIME I SAW YOU,
I HAD A MOMENT OF
TREPIDATION.

I KNOW
THAT ISN'T
PROPER
TO SAY.



...WARRIORS SUCH AS
OURSELVES ARE NEVER
SUPPOSED TO REVEAL
OUR TRUE FEELINGS.

BUT FROM THE
FIRST TIME I
SAW YOU, I FELT
A PRESENCE
ABOUT YOU.





DEPARTING FROM
THAT FETID BUILDING,
I KNEW THIS WOULD
BE NO ORDINARY
EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE
RELATIONSHIP.

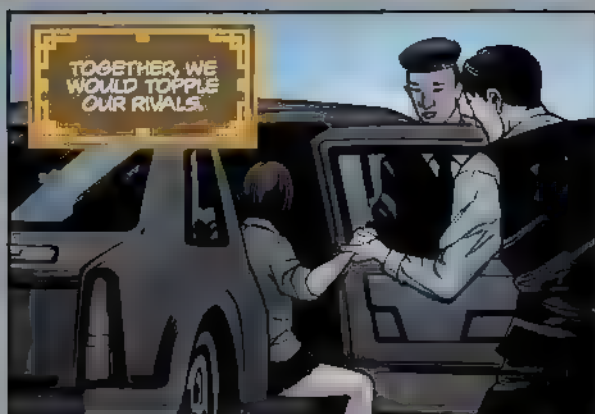


OURS WOULD BE THE MOST
SPECIAL OF BONDS.

—ONE THAT
OTHER GIRLS
COULD ONLY
WISH FOR.



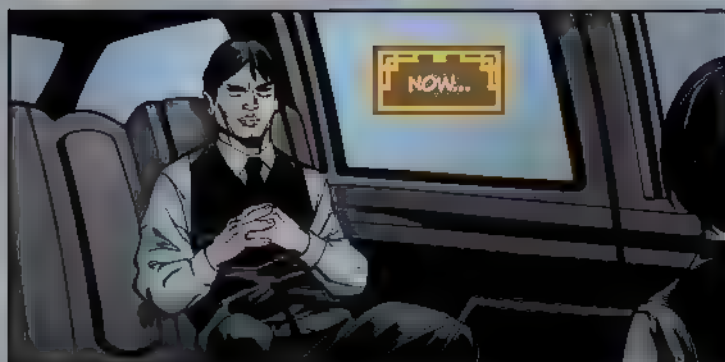
TOGETHER, WE
WOULD BUILD
AN EMPIRE.



TOGETHER, WE
WOULD TOPPLE
OUR RIVALS.



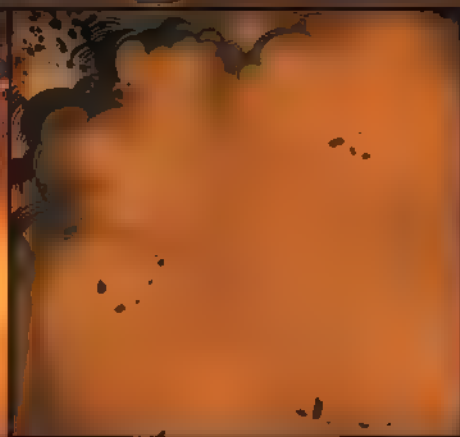
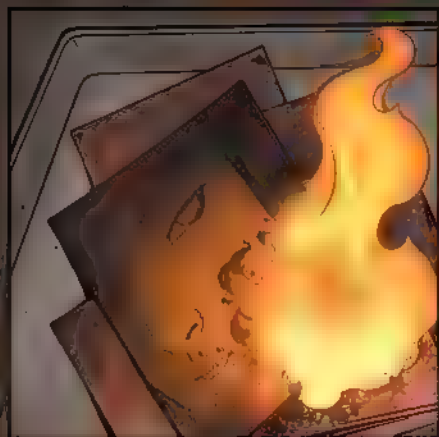
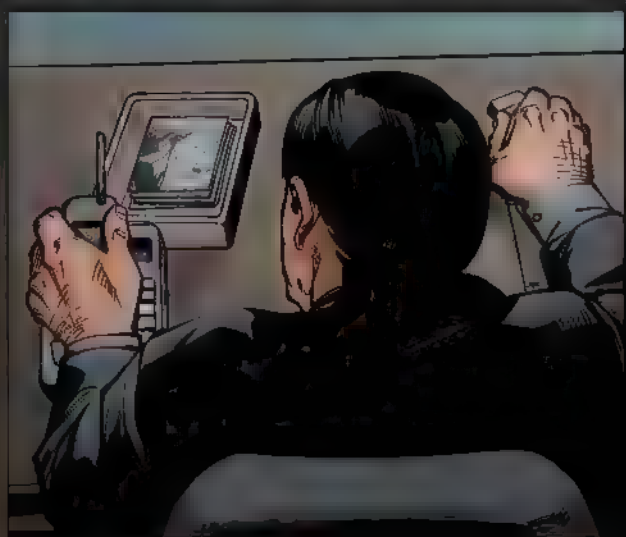
TOGETHER, THE
WORLD WAS OURS
FOR THE TAKING.

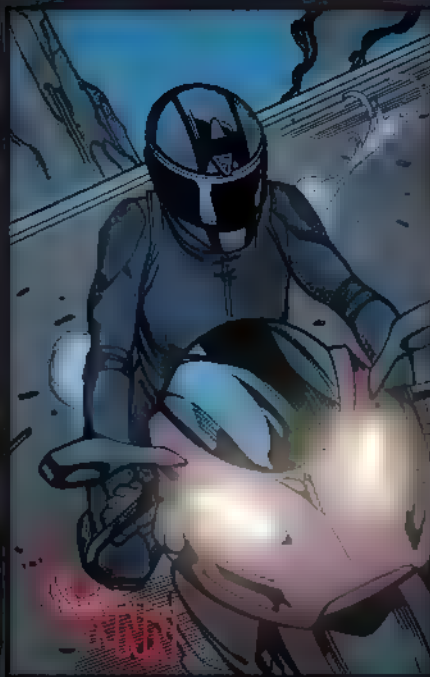
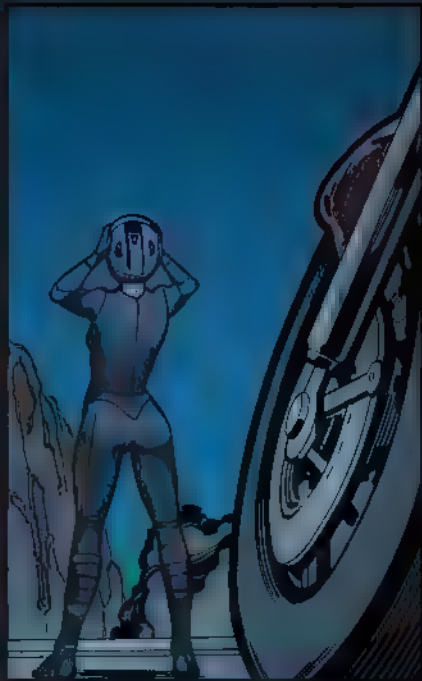


NOW...



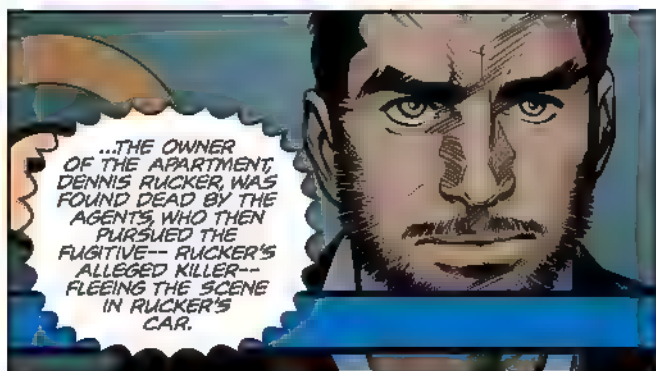
...AND FOREVER.







IN OTHER NEWS, IT WAS MAYHEM IN MALIBU THIS MORNING AS AN ANONYMOUS TIP ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF A KNOWN FUGITIVE LED FEDERAL AGENTS TO A RAID ON THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX...

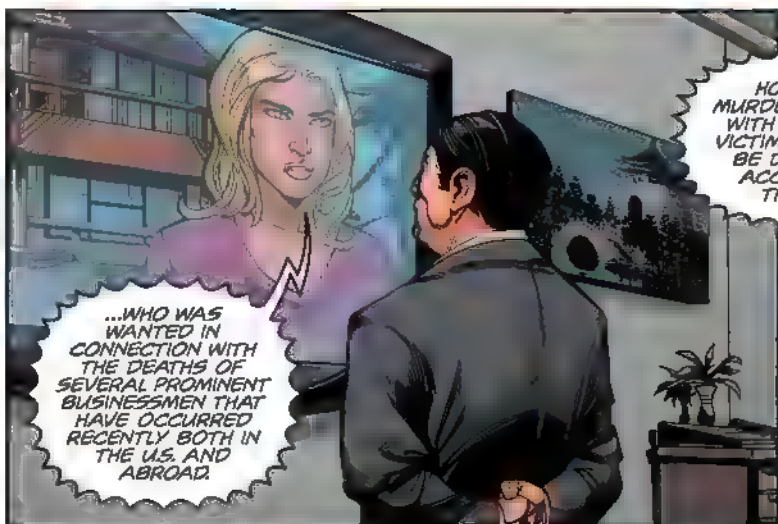


...THE OWNER OF THE APARTMENT, DENNIS RUCKER, WAS FOUND DEAD BY THE AGENTS, WHO THEN PURSUED THE FUGITIVE-- RUCKER'S ALLEGED KILLER-- FLEEING THE SCENE IN RUCKER'S CAR.



CAREENING DOWN THE TREACHEROUS PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY THE VEHICLE LOST CONTROL, CRASHED THROUGH A BARRIER, AND PLUMMETED OVER A HUNDRED FEET DOWN.

EMERGENCY CREWS ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR THE BODY OF THE FUGITIVE...



HOW THOSE MURDERS CONNECT WITH THE LATEST VICTIM REMAINS TO BE DISCOVERED, ACCORDING TO THE FED--



YOUR TEA, SIR?

YES, AND HAVE THE JET FUELED AND READY TO GO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



IT'S TIME TO PAY OUR NEW HOME A VISIT...

DUBAI, U.A.E.
SEVERAL DAYS LATER.

LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN,
THANK YOU ALL
FOR JOINING ME ON
THIS MOMENTOUS
OCCASION.

AT CHINGCORP,
WE PRIDE OURSELVES
ON A LONG-TERM
STRATEGY OF GROWTH
AND PROSPERITY FOR
OUR SHAREHOLDERS...

...AS WELL AS
THE COMMUNITIES
IN WHICH WE
THRIVE. WE, ALL OF
US, ARE FAMILY.

PEOPLE OF
DUBAI!...

WELCOME TO
MY FAMILY!

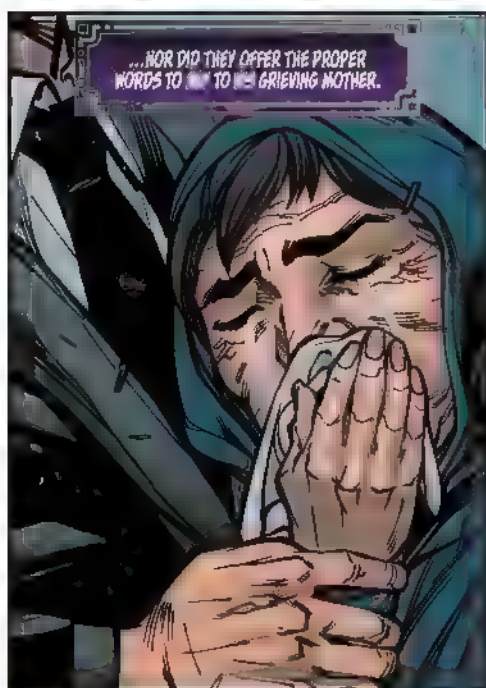
CULVER CITY,
CALIFORNIA.

I'M NOT SURE
WHY I'VE EVEN
COME HERE.

IT'S NOT AS IF I
COULD JUST WALK
RIGHT UP THERE AND
TELL THE TRUTH.



AT THE ACADEMY, THEY DIDN'T TEACH
A COURSE IN THE PROPER PROTOCOL FOR
ADDRESSING YOUR LOVER'S FAMILY AFTER
HE'S KILLED BY YOUR EMPLOYER...



...NOR DID THEY OFFER THE PROPER
WORDS TO TO A GRIEVING MOTHER.



WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS SERVE
OUR EMPLOYER. PROTECT
HIM... AND HIS INTERESTS.

EVEN IF THAT REQUIRES LEAVING
A MOTHER WITHOUT HER SON...



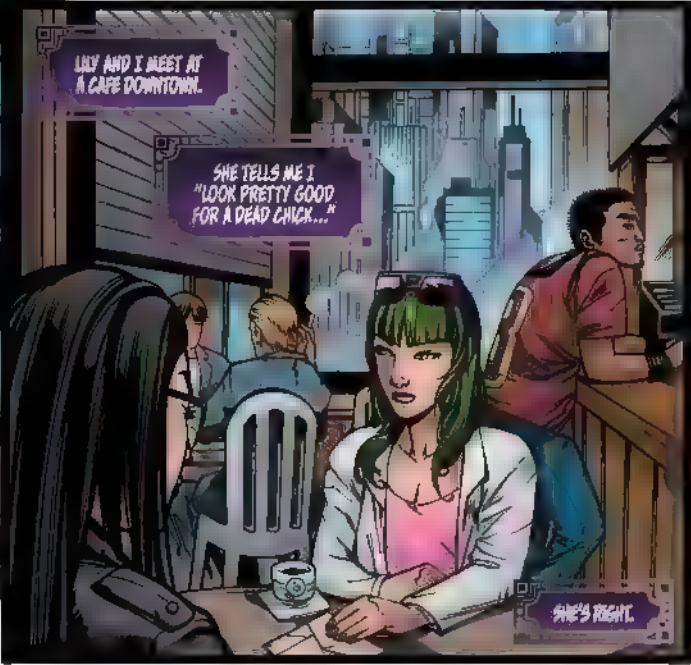
...OR A DAUGHTER
WITHOUT HER FATHER.

THE FAMILY OF ALAN CHU
BELIEVES HIS DEATH WAS
"NATURAL CAUSES"...



I HOPE THAT AT LEAST GAVE THEM
A SENSE OF PEACE... OF CLOSURE.

PERHAPS THEY
CAN STILL KNOW
HAPPINESS.

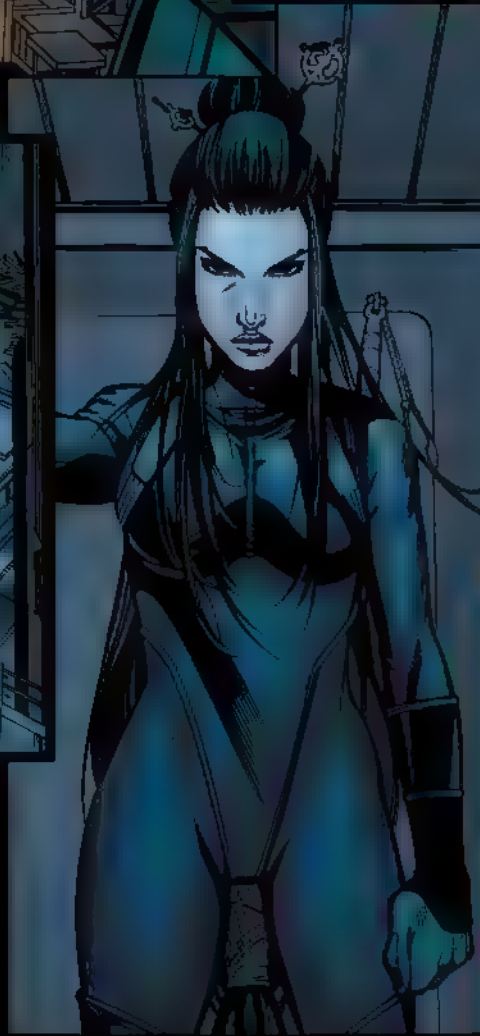
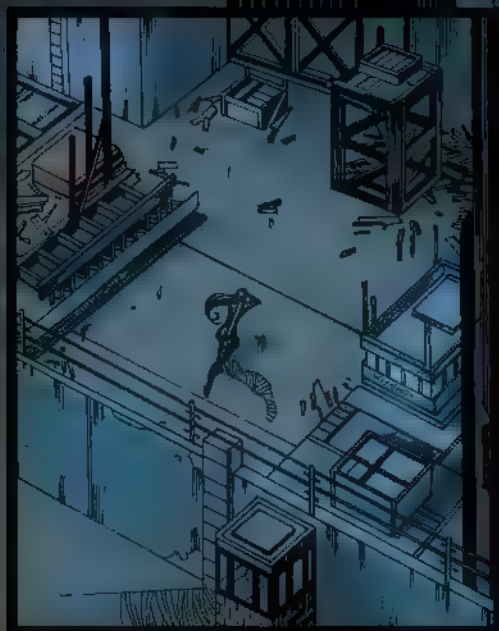


36 HOURS LATER...

FAREWELL AND
ADIEU TO YOU FAIR
SPANISH LADIES...

...FAREWELL AND
ADIEU YOU LADIES
OF SPAIN...

...FOR WE'VE
RECEIVED ORDERS
TO ZHULGHHHHH-





MISTER CHANG
WASTED NO TIME
SETTING UP HIS
OFFICE HERE.

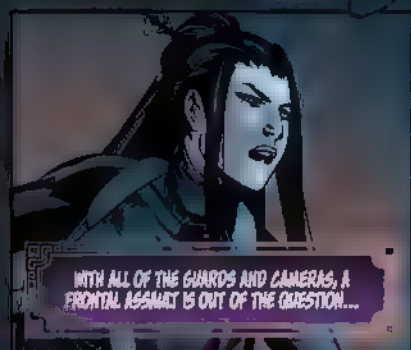
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
THE DEPRESSED BUILDING
MARKET BY PURCHASING
THESE TOWERS THAT
WERE ALREADY UNDER
CONSTRUCTION.



WHAT BETTER WAY TO
LAUNDER MONEY THAT HE
ACQUIRED FROM HIS
DECEASED EX-PARTNERS
WHILE EXPANDING HIS
"LEGITIMATE BUSINESS"
AT THE SAME TIME.



WITH THE CENTER
TOWER ALREADY
COMPLETED, HE'S
MOVED IN--
SECURITY AND ALL.



WITH ALL OF THE GUARDS AND CAMERAS, A
FRONTAL ASSAULT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION...



...THE ROOF ON
THE OTHER HAND...



SHOULDN'T BE QUITE
SO PROTECTED--

IRIS, I
PRESUME?

MY EMPLOYER
SAID YOU'D
BE HERE.



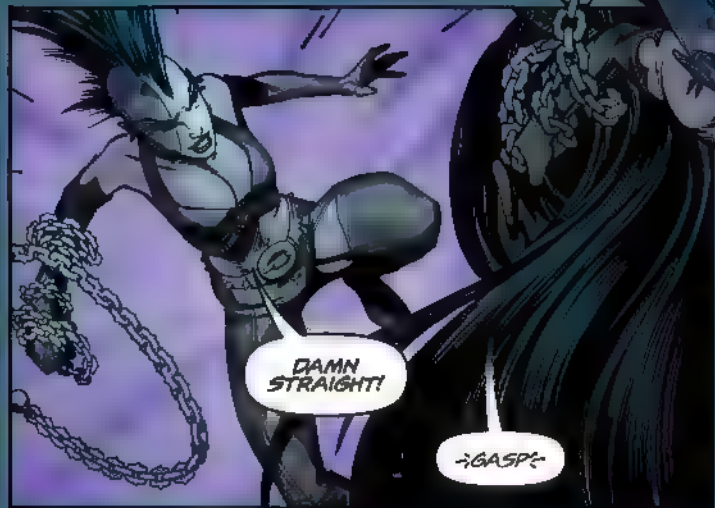
THE ONLY PART WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS WHETHER YOU'D CHOOSE THE MAIN ENTRANCE WITH SOME OF YOUR FRIENDS...

...OR IF YOU'D CHOOSE THE MORE *STEALTHY* ROUTE, SEARCHING FOR VENGEANCE ALL BY YOUR LONESOME.



I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT YOU. FRANKLY I'M SICK OF SEEING US PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER.

THAT'S TOO BAD, 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN DREAMING ABOUT KICKING YOUR ASS!



DAMN STRAIGHT!

~GASP~



TWO OF THEM!

THUMP



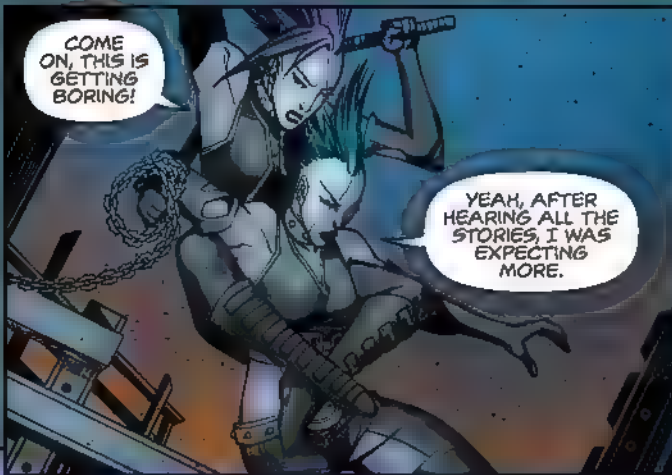
THAT'S RIGHT, HONEY COME AND GET ME.

I NEED TO SEPARATE THEM.



THWAK

OOOOLFFFE..



COME ON, THIS IS GETTING BORING!

YEAH, AFTER HEARING ALL THE STORIES, I WAS EXPECTING MORE.



HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, LADIES...



WHKK

THWIP



WH

THWIP



STAY STILL
ALREADY!



I DON'T
THINK SO--
OH!



UINSSGGHHH!



I MUST
BE MORE
CAREFUL!



THINK
STRATEGICALLY.

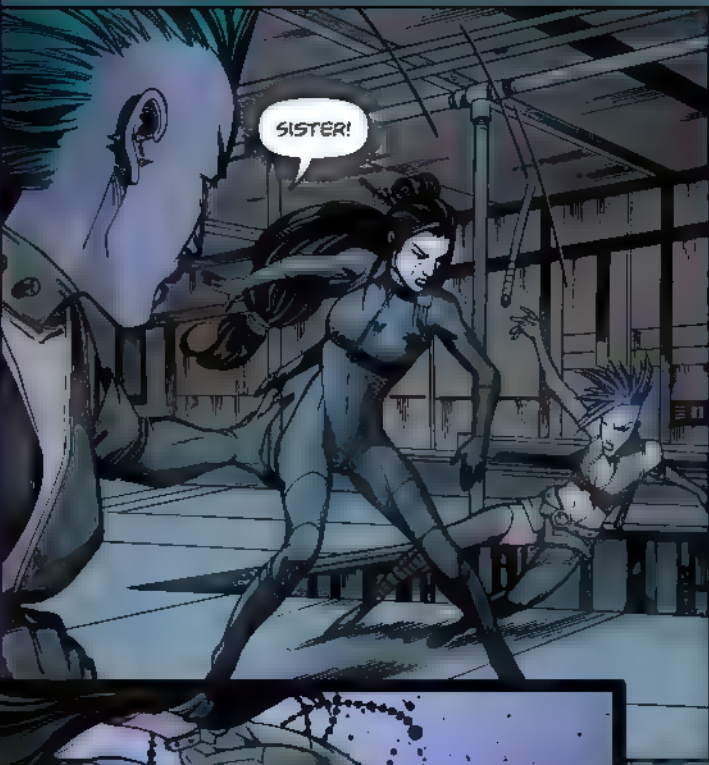


THERE
YOU ARE!

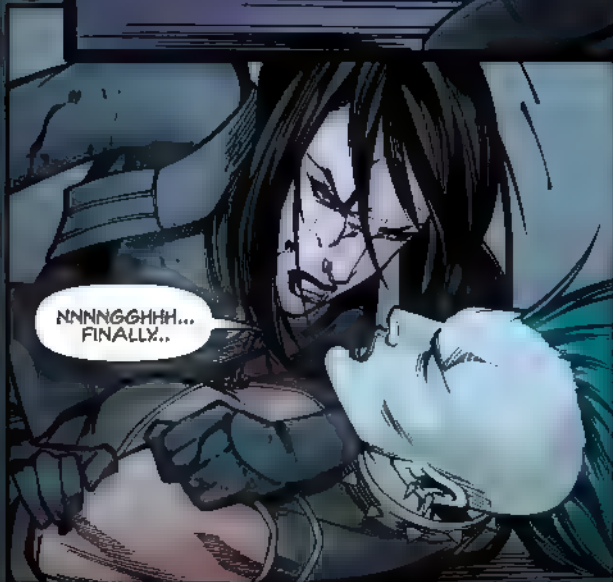
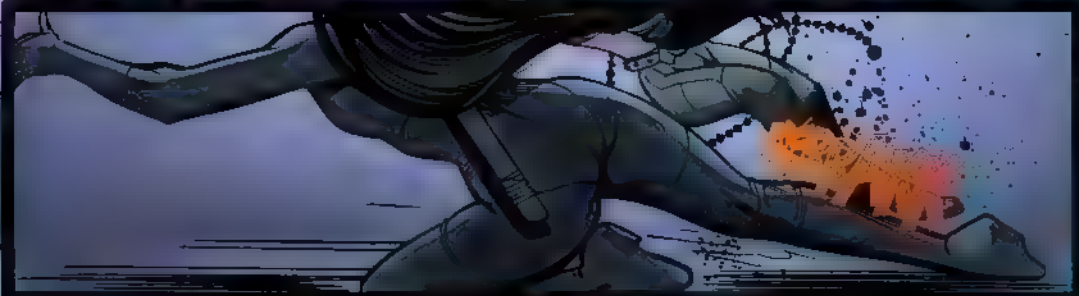
WE THOUGHT
YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO PLAY
ANYMORE!



HULLGGGHHH...



SISTER!

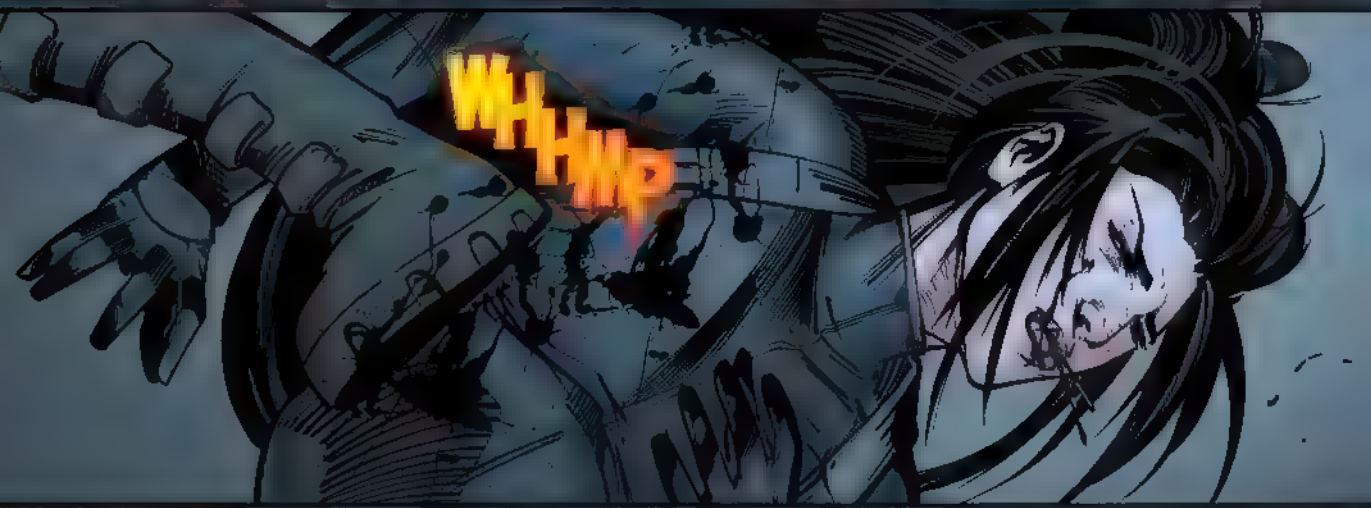


NNNGGHHH...
FINALLY...



WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT? DO
YOU WANT
TO DIE?

NOT
QUITE.



WHHHHP

I THINK THE
BETTER QUESTION
IS HOW DO YOU
WANT TO DIE...

UNDEFEATABLE...





ARE YOU
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS...



EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS?
AS IF.

...OR A
CIRCUS
ACT?



WE'RE A
NEW BREED,
IRIS.



REALLY

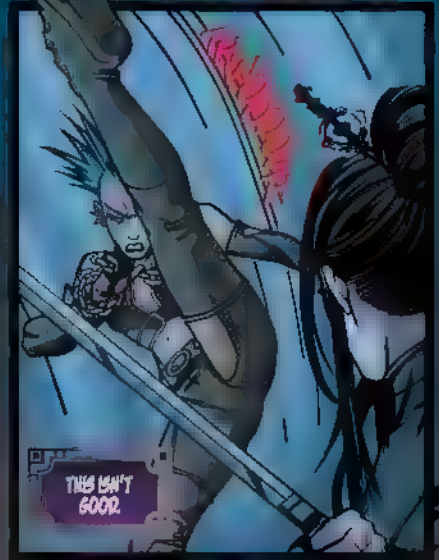


EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS LIKE
YOU ARE OLD NEWS,
WITH YOUR CODE
OF ETHICS AND
YOUR BLEEDING
HEART.

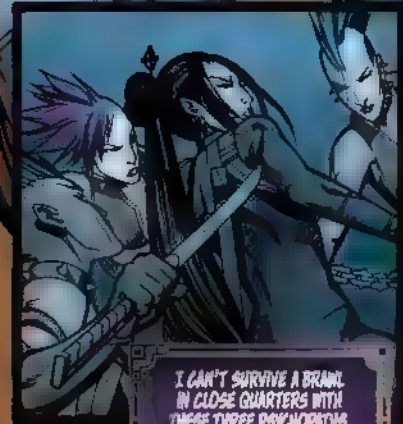
GROSS!



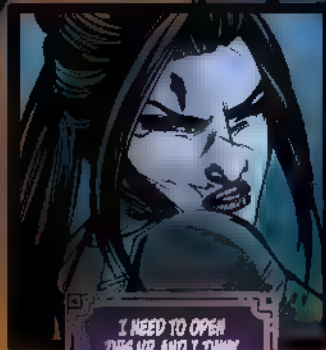
TAKE HER
OUT!



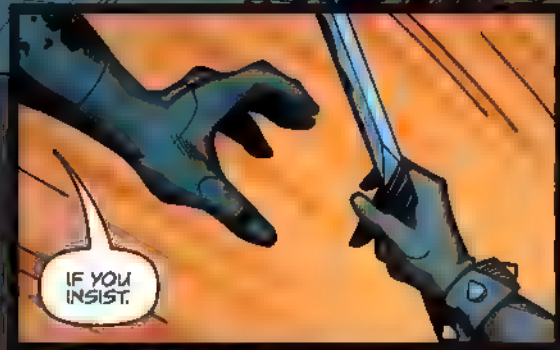
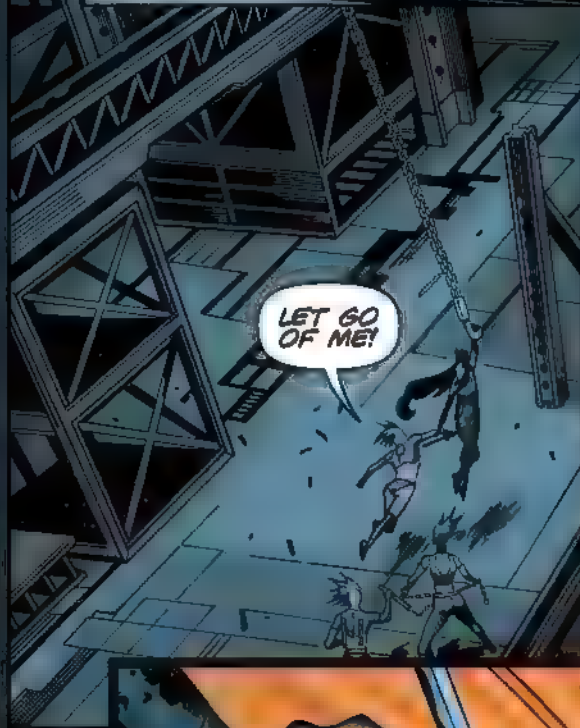
THIS ISN'T
GOOD.

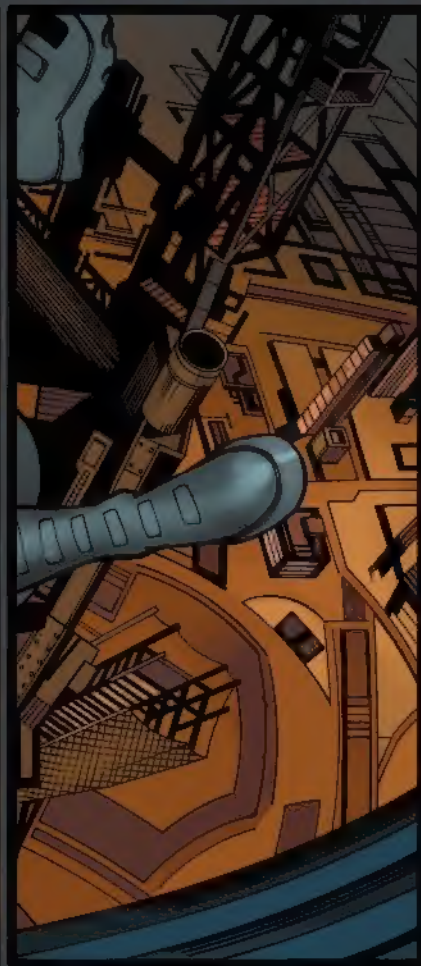


I CAN'T SURVIVE A BRAWL
IN CLOSE QUARTERS WITH
THESE THREE PSYCHOPATHS.



I NEED TO OPEN
THIS UP, AND I THINK
I SEE A WAY...







HIS OFFICE ISN'T
DIFFICULT TO FIND.

HE'S ALWAYS PREFERRED THE
TOP FLOOR. EASY ENTRANCE
AND EXIT, HE'D ALWAYS SAY.



AS I CREEP DOWN THE UNFURNISHED HALLS
TOWARD THE ONLY ILLUMINATED OFFICE IN THIS
BUILDING, I REALIZE MY HEART IS RACING.

I'M NERVOUS-- BUT NOT
FOR HIS GUARDS OR HIS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS ...

...OR WHATEVER
HE'S PLANNING TO
THROW AT ME...



...JUST TO
SEE HIM.

CLICK



YOU NEVER
CEASE TO
IMPRESS ME,
IRIS. EVEN
NOW.

TURN
AROUND...
SLOWLY



I ASSURE
YOU I AM QUITE
UNARMED.

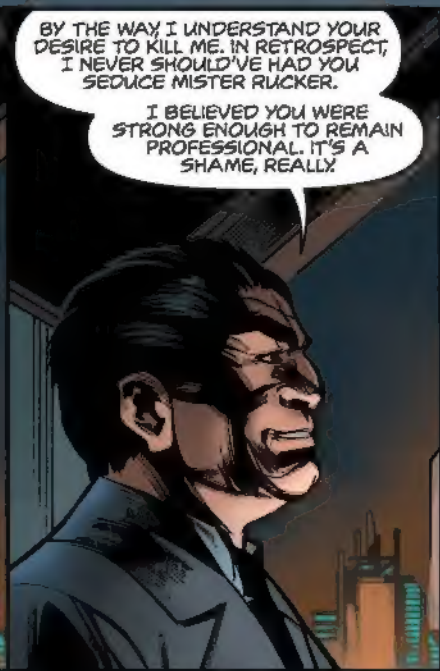
FRANKLY I
EXPECTED THE
ORCHIDS TO HANDLE
MY BUSINESS. THE
PRICE FOR THEIR
SERVICES WAS QUITE
EXORBITANT.



APPARENTLY
THEY JUST DON'T
TRAIN THEM LIKE
THEY USED TO.

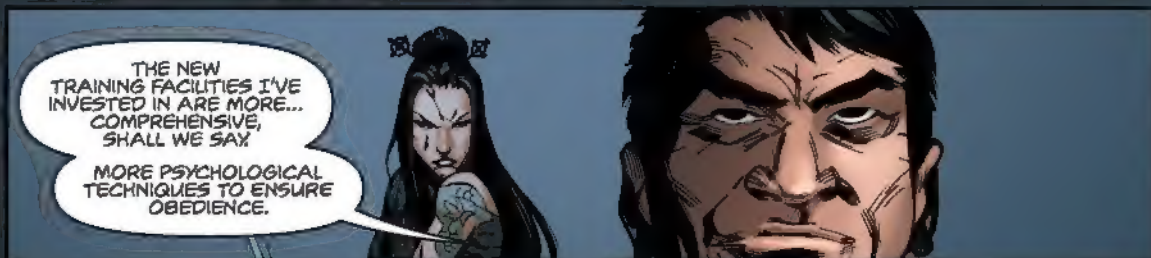


NO, IRIS,
YOU WERE
ONE OF A
KIND.



BY THE WAY, I UNDERSTAND YOUR
DESIRE TO KILL ME. IN RETROSPECT,
I NEVER SHOULD'VE HAD YOU
SEDUCE MISTER RUCKER.

I BELIEVED YOU WERE
STRONG ENOUGH TO REMAIN
PROFESSIONAL. IT'S A
SHAME, REALLY.



THE NEW
TRAINING FACILITIES I'VE
INVESTED IN ARE MORE...
COMPREHENSIVE,
SHALL WE SAY?

MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL
TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE
OBEDIENCE.



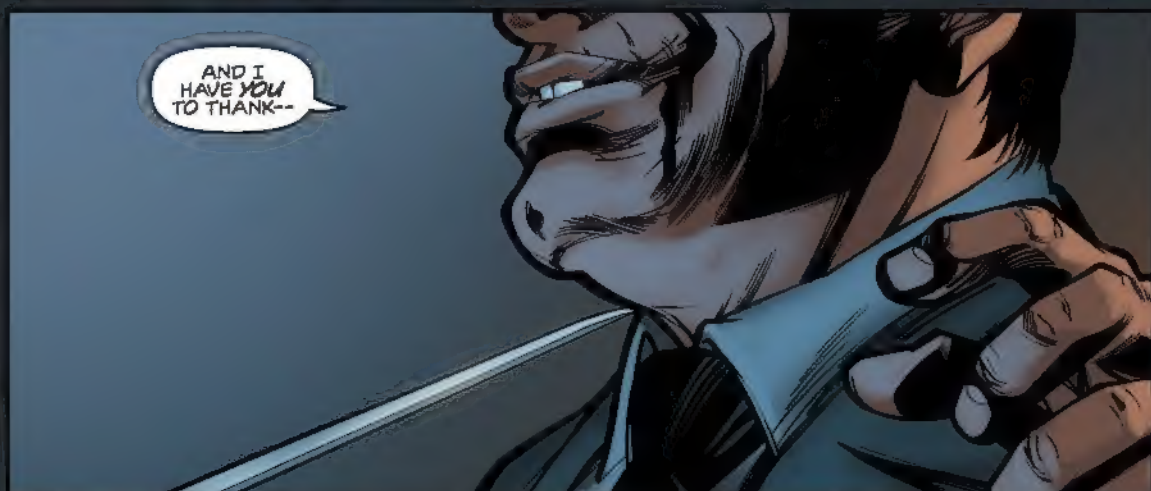
YOU LOOK
SURPRISED.

AH YES, YOU
BELIEVED YOU
DESTROYED THE
ONLY FACILITY
WHEN YOU TOOK
DOWN SHULI.



MY DEAR IRIS,
YOU WERE MERELY
SCRATCHING THE
SURFACE!

MY FACILITIES
ARE OPENING
WORLDWIDE!



AND I
HAVE YOU
TO THANK--



COME
BACK TO
ME, IRIS.
I FORGIVE
YOU.



TOGETHER WE
COULD CONQUER
THE WORLD.



IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I REALIZE
THIS IS WHY I WAS NERVOUS.

IT WAS THIS MOMENT.

I WASN'T FEARFUL
OF CHING--

--BUT OF LIFE
WITHOUT HIM.

A NEW BEGINN--

GOOD JOB, IRIS.
YOU SERVED YOUR
PURPOSE.

--GASP--
YOU???



TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS
VOLUME TWO